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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN PLANNERS, STATISTICIANS AND DEMOGRAPHERS

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
15-20 January 1990

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The sixth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers was held at ECA headquarters, Addis Ababa, from 15 to 20 January 1986. The meeting was opened by Professor Adebayo Adedeji, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.

2. The session was attended by the representatives of the following member States of the commission: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following Member States of the United Nations were represented by observers: Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom.

4. There were representatives from the United Nations Statistical Office and the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (UNTCD).

5. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were also represented. The session was also attended by representatives of the following specialized agencies: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Bank.

6. The following intergovernmental bodies were represented: Arab League, African Development Bank (ADB), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Pan-African News Agency (PANA) and Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA).

7. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was represented at the Conference.

8. Observers were present from: Centre français sur la population et le développement (CEPED), Centre européen de formation des statisticiens économistes des pays en voie de développement (CESD) Paris, Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC), Institut national de la statistique et d'études économiques (INSEE), International Statistical Institute (ISI), Institut sous-regional de statistique et d'économie appliquée (ISSEA), Statistics Sweden, United States Bureau of the Census, Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), Union douanière et économique de l'Afrique centrale (UDEAC), Institut africain de développement économique et de planification (IDEP), West African MULPOC, Centre d'études et de recherches sur la population et le développement (CERPOD) Institut du Sahel and the European Economic Community (EEC).

9. Mr. Soumah Ibrahima Sory (Guinea) was elected Chairman of the Joint Conference with Dr. Samy A. El Kashif (Egypt) and Mr. Mbaila Mbamwila Banta (Zaire) as First and Second Vice-Chairmen respectively and Dr. G. M. Mandishona (Zimbabwe) and Ms. F.M. Morojele (Lesotho) as Rapporteurs.

B. AGENDA

10. The Joint Conference adopted the following agenda:

Plenary meeting

1. Opening address.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda.

4. Review of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1988-1989.

5. African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP):

   (a) Progress report on follow-up on AAF-SAP;

   (b) Strategies for implementing AAF-SAP at the national and regional levels;

      (i) Realigning short-term and medium-term plans with AAF-SAP;

      (ii) Monitoring mechanisms: role of planners, statisticians, demographers and information scientists.

6. Technical assistance in planning, statistics, demography and information science.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

7. Election of officers.

8. Joint session of Planning Committee and African Economists on:

   (a) ECA macro-economic model for AAF-SAP;

   (b) AAF-SAP policy instruments studies: exchange rate and subsidies and interest rates and production subsidies as policy instruments for adjustment with transformation.

9. Harmonization and co-ordination of national development plans at the subregional level.

10. Report of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

11. Report on ECA planning activities (1988-1989), review of approved work programme (1990-1991) and consideration of draft work programme (1992-1993) and medium-term plan (1992-1997).

12. Adoption of the report.

STATISTICS COMMITTEE

13. Election of officers.

14. An integrated approach to the development of statistics: The Statistical Development Programme for Africa.

15. Progress report on the implementation of the environment statistics programme for Africa.

16. Indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving social goals in the 1990s:

(a) UNICEF/UNDP/UN Statistical Office proposal;

(b) Assessment of social dimensions of structural adjustment.

17. Progress report on the World Bank/UNDP/ECA project on data collection in relation to development programmes and aid flows:

(a) Assessment of national statistical capability;

(b) Plan of action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s.

18. Report on programme implementation by the Statistics Division (1988-1989), review of approved work programme (1990-1991) and consideration of draft work programme (1992-1993) and medium-term plan (1992-1997).

19. Adoption of the report.

DEMOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

20. Election of officers.

21. An evaluation of the age-sex data of recent African censuses.

22. Evaluation of national experiences in the implementation of population policies in ECA member States in relation to Kilimanjaro Programme of Action.

23. The relative roles of maternal and child health and family planning (MC/FP) programmes, proximate determinants and socio-economic correlates in influencing fertility.

24. Report on IPOBD, RHS and CEPPOD.

25. Report on population activities (1988-1989), review of approved programme of work (1990-1991) and consideration of draft work programme (1992-1993) and medium-term plan (1992-1997).

26. Adoption of the report.

INFORMATION SCIENCE COMMITTEE

27. Election of officers.

28. Progress report on establishment of PADIS network of national, subregional and institutional participating centres.

29. Report on PADIS activities (1988-1989), review of approved work programme (1990-1991) and consideration of draft work programme (1992-1993) and medium-term plan (1992-1997).

30. Adoption of the report.

RESUMED PLENARY

31. Other business.

32. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Joint Conference.

33. Review of Committee deliberations and summary of main conclusions.

34. Report of the Symposium of African Economists on AAF-SAP.

35. Adoption of the report of the Joint Conference to the ECA Conference of Ministers.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Plenary session

Opening address (agenda item 1)

11. The session was opened by Professor Adebayo Adedeji, ECA Executive Secretary.

12. In his opening statement, the Executive Secretary welcomed participants and pointed out the importance of this meeting as it comes at a time when Africa is entering a new decade which brings with it new challenges and hopes. He then alluded to the sad experience of the 1980s and in particular to the effects of the exogenous factors such as drought and the adverse developments in international commodity and financial markets. On the other hand, the design of policies that suit foreign styles of development has limited the possibilities of genuine African development and specifically referred to the imperative of initiating policies that are authentic in nature and take into account real development priorities and needs. The policy

framework is inadequate because it fails to ensure the integration of short-term economic management with long-term goals and objectives. He then referred to the importance of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) in resolving such a dichotomy.

13. He confirmed to the Conference that AAF-SAP was adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers, the Joint Meeting of African Ministers of Economic Development and Planning and Ministers of Finance and subsequently by the OAU Summit of African Heads of State and Government. He also referred to the resolutions adopted by various international fora including ECOSOC, the United Nations General Assembly, the Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries, and the Ministerial Meeting of the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly.

14. The Executive Secretary then gave a brief account on actions undertaken to operationalize AAF-SAP, in particular the undertaking of studies on the policy instruments and the development of modalities for applying AAF-SAP policy framework and to assist in the preparation of country specific models. He also referred to the contacts made with the IMF, the World Bank, donors and NGOs. He welcomed the association of African Economists in joining the Conference at this important juncture when AAF-SAP is being operationalized.

15. He made reference to the need to foster economic co-operation in the face of a growing move towards the creation of regional and sub-regionales propelled by the imminent establishment of an Integrated European Market in 1992. He specifically requested the meeting to deliberate on the modalities for harmonizing and co-ordinating national development plans at the sub-regional level as a step towards the gradual establishment of the African Common Market.

16. The Executive Secretary exposed on the role of statistics in monitoring and evaluation of ongoing economic reform programmes and development plans and drew the attention of the Conference to the need for performance indicators which not only measure economic performance but perhaps more importantly measure the impact of policy programmes on the quality of life of target groups and the democratization of the development and decision-making process.

17. He called the attention of the participants to the need to reconsider appropriate measures for further strengthening national institutional capabilities in statistics with a view to overcoming past shortcomings. To this end, he invited the Conference to review critically the results of the assessment of the statistical capacity of ECA member States which was undertaken within the framework of the UNDP/World Bank/ECA project "Data collection related to development programmes and aid flows in Africa" and formulate concrete measures to help solve problems which have been identified. In this connection, he referred to a draft Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s which is being submitted to the Conference for careful consideration and adoption.

18. The Executive Secretary noted that in recent years there has been a tendency for African countries to try to shift responsibility for important aspects of national statistical programmes, such as design, processing and analysis of surveys, to

international agencies. This, he said, could have negative effects on national plans and priorities and he called on African statisticians to play the lead role in the formulation and implementation of national and regional statistical programmes, while at the same time ensuring that, through proper co-ordination, the various statistical programmes sponsored by donor agencies and intended to assist African countries yield the maximum benefit to the countries.

19. He then reviewed the activities in the area of population. He noted with concern the adverse impact of prevailing demographic trends which affect all socio-economic sectors, for example food, education, health, transport, employment, environment, etc. He noted the importance for member States to implement the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action and reiterated the recommendations contained in APPER, the UN-PAAERD, and the Conference of Least Developed Countries. He noted that, since the last session of the Joint Conference, more countries have shown interest in formulating and implementing articulated policies. In some countries, lack of data constituted a constraint. Therefore, priority should be given to improve the demographic data base.

20. He made an appeal to those countries that did not initiate action to formulate population policies to do so and to show greater commitment to implementation of programmes, including mother and child health and family planning. He also called on the international community to continue to assist African countries in their population programmes. He invited the Conference to come up with ideas regarding the future trends of population for the forthcoming fourth International Population Conference in 1994.

21. Regarding the African training and research institutes, the Executive Secretary made an appeal for their support by member States, as the restructuring of these institutes will make them less costly.

22. Another area of concern to ECA is information management. African member States created in 1980 the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) to assist in strengthening and developing their information and documentation infrastructures. PADIS offers advisory services to member States, regional and subregional organizations, provides training, promotes information, resource-sharing and the use of common norms and standards. A functioning central co-ordination office has been established within ECA. Thirty member States have designated their national participating centres, and major efforts have been made in the strengthening of institutional participation in the PADIS network.

23. Thanks to UNDP, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and African member States, implementation of the PADIS programme has made considerable headway in bringing about an improvement in the collection, processing and dissemination of development information in Africa. Equally important, the experience gained in bringing about such changes is an asset of tremendous value in formulating and implementing the future programme of work. The increasing support and recognition that African member States have been according to the implementation of the PADIS programme further reveals the need to continue and strengthen the operations of PADIS in the future.

Review of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1988-1989 (agenda item 4)

24. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/PSD.6/2 entitled "Review of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1988-1989". He mentioned that the document was intended to give a summary picture of the broad highlights of economic and social trends in 1988-1989 and a forecast for 1990. It updates the developments in these trends since the fifth session of the Joint Conference. He informed the meeting that this assessment is neither a summary of the annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa - now published as a technical document - nor the Economic Report on Africa, 1990, which would be presented to the ECA Conference of Ministers, whose preparation is in progress.

25. In summarizing the report, the representative of the secretariat noted that there was an improvement in the economic situation in 1988 and 1989. Growth in regional output was estimated at 2.4 per cent in 1988 and 2.9 per cent in 1989. The fact that these growth rates are below those of population suggests that per capita incomes and consumption patterns perpetuated a trend established since the beginning of the 1980s. Among the positive factors engendering this growth are recovery in agriculture and improvements in foreign exchange position of some countries. However, adverse factors such as deterioration in the terms of trade, that capital decay in infrastructure and production base, as well as escalation of the debt problem, continued to take their toll. There were, however, conspicuous variations in performance at the subregional and other grouping levels.

26. Examining the situation at the sectoral level, the representative of the secretariat indicated that the buoyant agricultural performance reflected a general improved food supply situation, although substantial food aid requirements will still be required especially in Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, the Sudan and some of the eastern Sahelian countries. Some impetus for growth also arose from the manufacturing and mining sectors. He also indicated that there was some improvement in the trade balance, with a deficit falling from $US 11.3 billion in 1988 to $US 9.2 billion in 1989. Both exports and imports rose, reflecting increases in unit values as volumes declined. Largely on the strength of oil prices, the index of commodity prices rose by about 19.7 per cent in 1989. However, beverage prices collapsed to a 11-year low. Net official development aid (ODA) stagnated in real terms and the stock of debt rose sharply. Debt-service obligations are currently estimated at about 40 per cent of exports of goods and services.

27. With respect to the economic prospects of the region for 1990, he stated that much will depend on weather conditions, progress in implementation and sustenance of effective policy reforms, and developments in the international economic environment. He also noted that good weather conditions are likely to prevail and as a result agriculture may grow by 4 per cent. If, however, a recession obtains in the OECD countries, who are Africa's major trading partners, then regional GDP may grow by only 3 per cent in 1990. If, on the other hand, the international economic environment improves, resulting in higher demand and attractive prices for African products and in easing of the foreign exchange constraint, and provided policy stances in line with AAF-SAP are instituted and/or sustained, then regional growth may rise to 4.5 per cent.

28. In the ensuing discussion, a number of participants commended the quality of the report and its presentation. One delegation, however, felt that the title of the report should be amended to refer only to the economic situation as this was the central issue in it. Several participants felt that the title is in order, but regretted that the report ignored the social dimension, such as demographic trends, employment, training, income distribution and the incidences of poverty and refugees.

29. Some participants made specific queries or corrections, while others requested additional information and detailed clarifications. One participant queried the country composition of the East African subregion. The Zimbabwe representative suggested that more insight would be gained by presenting data on East and Southern Africa separately. One participant referred to a translation error in paragraph 1 of page 3 of the French text which should be aligned with the English text to avoid the erroneous suggestion that the countries listed belong to the eastern part of the Sahel. Another participant remarked that other factors had to be considered, in addition to good weather which facilitated productive performance in 1988 and 1989, for instance, political stability. He also regretted that the report did not highlight efforts on financial aspects and requested the World Bank observer to provide information on the matter. A participant emphasized that the important role of resource rationalization policies in confronting the crisis needed to be highlighted. Similarly, the participant from Kenya requested the inclusion of information on intra-African trade, and efforts to elaborate on it in the revised text of the report.

30. One participant pointed to the economic challenges facing the region in its efforts to attain higher growth in 1990, as implied by the earlier assumptions, and the important role that African countries should play in facing these challenges, noting that this has been reflected in the last part of the report regarding the need to implement reform policies in line with AAF-SAP.

31. The observer for the World Food Programme noted the reversal in some of the previously adverse trends on the macro- economic indicators. He, however, noted that despite the improvement in the food supply situation, there are still serious food security problems that need to be addressed. He outlined the efforts of his organization in providing assistance for emergency and development purposes, as well as in mitigating the social impact of the structural adjustment programmes.

32. The observer for the USSR emphasized the adverse socio-economic impact of substantial military expenditure on African countries. He suggested that this factor should be included with others influencing economic prospects during 1990.

33. The observer for UN-DTCD observed that the document was rather brief and that, as a technical document, it should have provided detailed information on the economic and social situation in the region.

34. The observer for the World Bank introduced the Bank's recent study entitled Sub-Saharan Africa From Crisis to Substainable Growth: A Long-term Prespective Study. He noted that the document draws long-term strategies to ensure structural change in sub-Saharan countries, and to enable their economies to be more competitive. He also mentioned that the document benefitted from deliberations of various conferences on

the African economic crisis. He also drew attention to the Bank's programme on the social dimension of adjustment, which monitors macro-economic indicators, analyzes the causes of economic ailments, and assesses the impact of the remedy, on the basis of dialogue between the Bank and individual countries.

35. In response to observations and issues raised by participants, the representative of the secretariat thanked the contributors. He took up the major issues separately, and emphasized that the report has the specific objective of presenting major highlights of the economi and social situation in 1988-1989, and as such, was kept brief and precise. He also emphasized that the information on 1989 is naturally tentative as the year has just closed. He welcomed suggestions regarding the expansion of the report to cover the social scene, and assured participants that the Economic Report on Africa, 1990, which would be presented to the ECA Conference of Ministers, incorporates, as a rule, a thorough analysis of the social situation and statistical annexes to this effect. More detailed information will be included in the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1988-1989, which is currently being prepared. He further assured the participants that the revised text of the report will reflect the specific amendments made and will incorporate more details along the lines suggested by them, especially in such areas as factors of growth, resource allocations, management and trade. In reacting to the presentation of the observer for the World Bank, he expressed the hope that the document on sub-Saharan Africa will reflect a re-thinking of structural adjustment along lines that are consistent with the objectives, priorities and realities of the African region, as reflected in AAF-SAP.

Progress report on the follow-up on AAF-SAP [agenda item 5 (a)]

36. A representative of the secretariat presented [illegible]ent E/ECA/PSD.6/3 entitled "Progress report on the follow-up on AAF-SAP". He noted that although only a short period had elapsed since the adoption of AAF-SAP, a lot of follow-up actions had been undertaken in line with the specific requests of the ECA Conference of Ministers [resolution 676 (XXIV)] on the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP).

37. He referred to the different fora and workshops to which AAF-SAP had been submitted, discussed and the results thereof. These included (a) the 1989 OAU Summit of African Heads of State and Government, (b) the Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-aligned Countries, (c) the Ministerial ACP-EEC Joint Assembly, (d) the United Nations Economic and Social Council, (e) the United Nations General Assembly, (f) the Working Group of African Governors of the IMF and the World Bank and the Development Committee of the World Bank and the IMF, (g) the ILO-sponsored Tripartite Symposium on Structural Adjustment and Employment in Africa, (h) the Abuja Conference on the Integration of Women in Development, and (i) Workshops by the Vienna Institute for Development Co-operation in Austria and by Carleton University in Canada.

38. The ECA representative informed the meeting that consultations had been carried out at the highest managerial levels and at technical levels with both the World Bank and the IMF. These consultations had resulted in focusing specific areas of agreement

on AAF-SAP and narrowing the areas of disagreement. Other consultations had also been undertaken with donor countries and NGOs.

39. On the operationalization of AAF-SAP, the ECA representative pointed out that the secretariat had initiated in-depth studies on some policy instruments proposed in AAF-SAP. These studies covered production subsidies, multiple exchange rates and differential interest rate policy. Further, the secretariat had formulated a variety of model-types that can be adapted in African countries to analyze AAF-SAP policies. Finally, he noted that various actions were under way to ensure the operationalization of AAF-SAP at the country and subregional levels. A project for the establishment of an advisory team on AAF-SAP was being considered to advise individual countries on the operationalization of AAF-SAP. Also, workshops were being planned at the subregional level for the West African and Central African subregions.

40. The meeting took note of the progress report. It was proposed that the meeting should formally request the ECA Executive Secretary to encourage all the subregions of Africa to hold workshops on the operationalization of AAF-SAP.

Strategies for the implementation and monitoring of AAF-SAP: Some preliminary considerations [agenda item 5 (b)]

41. A representative of the secretariat introduced the document E/ECA/PSD.6/4 entitled "Strategies for the implementation and monitoring of AAF-SAP: Some preliminary considerations". He informed the Conference that this short document was to impart a preliminary thought that will provoke discussions on strategic options to implement and monitor AAF-SAP at the national, subregional and regional levels.

42. He stressed the fact that, as a result of the world recession and economic crises since the beginning of the decade, several developing countries in general, and the African countries in particular, have embarked on resource mobilization without the encouragement and support of the World Bank. Unfortunately, despite all these reform efforts with the concomitant sacrifice that the people of Africa had to bear, the social and economic conditions in most of the African countries have continued to deteriorate rather than improve. It is more evident now that inadequate understanding of the process of economic development and growth, shortages of both human and physical capital and the weaknesses of a number of development institutions are some of the constraints that have eroded the efforts of African countries to transform their economies and launch them on the path to self-sustaining development and growth. It is also clear that the ad hoc crisis management approach to development issues, the lack of strongly well-defined policies and strategies designed essentially from national perspectives, have had the effect of clouding the vision of African decision-makers about the impacts of different national economic policies on each other's economy.

43. He stressed the fact that the basic theses of AAF-SAP are that no programme or plan will work to reverse the deterioration in the African economies unless it is seen (a) that it is endogenously designed and implemented; (b) that the diversity of African situations cannot all be addressed through the application of standard formulae for all of them; (c) that the crises overwhelming Africa must been seen first

and foremost as a human one and not merely in terms of macro-economic disequilibrium; and that development concerns such as the alleviation of poverty, the improvement of health, nutrition, education and productivity, cannot be put on hold while resources are consumed by the need to correct economic imbalances. Hence, the AAF-SAP policy instruments and measures focus on increasing production for the satisfaction of critical needs because the major problems of the African economy are rooted in the lack of production and the low productivity rather than on the demand side. Thus to implement the proposals of AAF-SAP will necessitate a re-orientation of the institutional framework towards greater efficiency, increased accountability of public officials, and fuller participation of persons in decision-making and programme implementation.

44. The representative of the secretariat suggested two ways, among others, in which to integrate short-term concerns with long-term development objectives: (a) the "hard core" system of planning which consists of selecting specific priority sectors or fields which can offer adequate momentum to the development process of the country that is likely to increase productivity in both the short and long run; (b) the rolling multinational planning system which consists of a macro-economic framework linking the growth of national income, saving, investment and balance of payments to public expenditures and revenues under different assumption. In this way, the operationalization of AAF-SAP could take place through the country's in-depth studies, training, consultancy, advisory services, popular participation of the informal sector into the development process.

45. Concerning the consistent mechanisms of AAF-SAP, the representative of the secretariat indicated that each country should design appropriate socio-economic indicators that assess the main objectives, policies and targets for AAF-SAP. Salient among these are indicators for food security, economic performance, financial indicators, satisfaction of basic needs, progress in collective self-reliance among African countries, popular participation in development, protection of the environment, and economic and financial independence. The tool to capture the various socio-economic indicator activities in terms of policy implementation is the social accounting matrix (SAM). Therefore, there is need to undertake annual economic review and forecast of the performance of the agreed socio-economic indicators so as to assess annually whether or not the objectives and targets of the programmes have been achieved.

46. In the discussions that followed, the participants congratulated the secretariat for the quality of the document. Substantive questions about the document were raised and suggestions were put forward for its improvement and enrichment.

47. Particular stress was laid on the need to make the adjustment a continuous process of development planning. In this report, basic information and strategies were needed to be developed to cater for the implementation and monitoring of AAF-SAP. In particular, the monetary and financial systems should be adapted to the country's characteristics and integrated particularly with the concerns of the rural areas. African countries should endeavour to harmonize their development plans at the subregional levels so as to take account of the complementarities of production and consumption.

48. One participant raised the issue of resource mobilization in the period of the commodity crisis which could handicap the appropriate balance between the short-term economic reforms and long-term economic development. A question of modelling Africa's development was raised, and as to what steps ECA would take to organise a subregional/regional workshop on modelling. Compatibility between the system of national accounts and social accounting matrix was also raised.

49. The observer for the World Bank pointed to the need to co-operate with ECA in the growth-led adjustment programmes focusing on human resources development. He stressed the fact that the World Bank is moving toward the new generation of adjustment programmes which take into account growth aspects. SDA programmes are now being implemented in 29 African countries. The long-term perspective study (LTPS) projects the same concerns of the implementation and monitoring indicators within the social accounting matrix.

50. A representative of the secretariat congratulated the participants for their useful contributions and suggestions made to improve the document. He responded to the questions raised by a number of participants, and concluded that these and other comments would assist ECA to enrich its ongoing search for ways and means of implementing and monitoring AAF-SAP at the national, subregional and regional levels.

Technical assistance in planning, statistics, demography and information science (agenda item 6)

51. For the discussion of this item, the Conference had at its disposal two documents: "United Nations technical co-operation relating to development planning, statistics and population in Africa, 1988-1989" (E/ECA/PSD.6/6) and "ECA's technical assistance in planning, statistics, demography and information sciences" (E/ECA/PSD.6/5). The first was prepared by the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) and was introduced by the Chief of the Technical Co-operation Co-ordination Unit of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, on behalf of DTCD.

52. The representative of DTCD, on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Rafeuddin Ahmed and on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Technical Co-operation for Development, Mr. Xie Qimei, expressed the confidence in the ability of the Conference to continue its tradition of effective guidance and support for African planning and development strategies and wished the participants every success in their deliberations. The representative of DTCD informed participants that Mr. William Seltzer, Director of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, regretted very much indeed to be unable to participate personally in the Conference this year as he did in the past.

53. In describing the activities of the Statistical Office, the representative of DTCD said that the Office is completely dependent upon the national statistical offices for providing the statistics it compiles and disseminates. Although the work of the Office on methods and classifications is carried out in part to promote international comparability in statistics, it also has another important goal: providing national offices with the technical materials they need to carry out their own national work. This second aspect of the methodological work has grown more

important as the United Nations has grown larger. More and more African countries look to the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat as well as to the statistical and population services of ECA for relevant and sound technical materials to help them meet urgent national statistical needs. This aspect of the methodological work is also closely linked to technical co-operation which the Statistical Office carries out on behalf of DTCD.

54. With a brief reference to the diversity of work undertaken by the Statistical Office, he then summarized the areas of work in which significant advances have been made since the last session of the Conference. These include national accounts, industrial, trade, environment and demographic statistics. He informed the participants that according to the provisional figures for the end of 1989 the total overhead budget of DTCD for 1989 was $US 210 million of which $US 88 million was for Africa. The budget for technical co-operation projects in statistics in Africa was $US 14 million in 1989, compared to $US 11 million in 1988. In 1988, the implementation rate was 85 per cent. In 1989, a high delivery rate is expected once the final figure becomes available as a considerable number of new projects were approved in the last months for which implementation has not yet started.

55. In conclusion, the representative of DTCD hoped that the many practical, technical, organizational issues in the implementation of technical co-operation in statistics would be comprehensively discussed.

56. A representative of the secretariat then presented its document E/ECA/PSD.6/5. It was pointed out that ECA technical assistance in planning, statistics, demography and information sciences during the period under review continued to focus on building up national capabilities in these areas. The programme has helped in the operationalization of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 (APPER), the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD), as well as to AAF-SAP.

57. The representative of the secretariat further indicated that the relevant operational activities were financed mainly by UNFPA and UNDP with contributions amounting to $US 6.8 million and $US 5.7 million, respectively, for the biennium 1988-1989. Contributions were also made by other donor agencies such as the Governments of Canada and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics USSR, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Ford Foundation, USAID, the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat. In addition, a number of activities were financed from the United Nations regular budget and the regular programme of technical co-operation.

58. The Conference noted that the assistance covered a wide range of activities. These include advisory services, participation in country round-tables, human resources development through training institutions in Africa, regional and national training workshops and on-the-job training of local staff, as well as development of data bases and information exchanges.

59. The ISI observer indicated that his organization has been providing during the last ten years significant contributions to statistical development in developing

countries, particularly in organizing the World Fertility Survey (WFS). Following that survey, the ISI Research Centre established a Dynamic Data Base (DDB) which allows research fellows world-wide to access fertility data and related variables. The DDB has also become an instrument for the training of demographers and other specialists in data analysis techniques. For this purpose, a seminar was organized in Accra, Ghana, in November 1988 for English-speaking African countries and another in Yaounde, Cameroon in October 1989 for French-speaking African countries. The two seminars were financed by UNFPA. Other ISI activities of interest to the region concerned the production, together with the IDRC, of a series of video-cassettes for the training of statisticians and a study leading to a periodic information bulletin on the topic "statistics and development".

60. The observer for France informed the Conference about the priority his country was assigning to the support of economic and financial institutions in general, and to planning, statistics and demography, in particular. This assistance needed to be seen in the framework of strengthening economic management capacities of African countries. It was being provided through bilateral agreements and multilaterally through French contributions to international organizations together with its African partners. France has established an integrated approach for project development which includes the determination of objectives, the duration of the project, the terms of reference of the experts and logistical support. These projects comprise permanent technical assistance (around 100 experts), expert missions, logistical support, grants from the "Fonds d'aide et de coopération (FAC)", and training fellowships. The support in statistics and demography is implemented through specialized agencies such as INSEE, CEPED, and ORSTOM. Training seminars are also financed by France alone or with EEC. Finally, France provides its contribution, through the supply of teaching personnel, to the activities of statistical training centres and institutes in French-speaking African countries. In conclusion, France considered that planning, statistics and demography were very important instruments for managing economies, particularly for the implementation of structural adjustment programmes. Co-operation in these fields would therefore be maintained and further strengthened during the coming years.

61. The observer for ADB informed the Conference about the technical assistance possibilities that his institution could provide to its Regional Member Countries (RMC) in the development of planning and statistics. In order to satisfy their increased resource needs in the wake of the economic crises of the 1980s, the ADB Group has considerably diversified its intervention instruments by including structural and sectoral adjustment programmes and increasing its technical assistance activities. In addition to the traditional provision of expertise and financial resources for the studies required for project formulation, technical assistance now includes a support component for institutional reforms in the RMC administrative and financial institutions in member States in the form of concessional loans and/or grants from the African Development Fund (ADF). Concessional resources for technical assistance are granted on the basis of socio-economic specifications which are classified into three main categories using well-defined criteria. Requests for such technical assistance are made through submission of projects or programmes for institutional reform in accordance with ADB procedures regarding loans and grants. The observer for ADB also recalled that his institution is participating in the

financing of the social dimensions of adjustment (SDA) project which includes an important statistical component.

62. The observer for the United Kingdom reported that his country's aid programme is administered by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA). Bilateral assistance is arranged with individual governments to support economic and social development and to assist the building up of local capabilities and institutions. Various forms of assistance are employed, including provision of long- and short-term advisers and consultants, salary supplements for British personnel employed on public service contracts, training awards and provision of small quantities of equipment, generally in support of these other forms of assistance. Efforts are made to co-ordinate ODA support with assistance given by the United Nations and other agencies both at the regional and national levels. The British Council manages the training component of bilateral assistance on behalf of ODA. Training awards are available mainly for postgraduate courses in Britain. These include short courses usually during the UK summer vacation and programmes may be tailored to suit individual needs. Awards are available also for third country training, for instance at STPA centres. Assistance for economic and sectoral planning has been provided to a number of African countries. In addition, support is being given in areas which have an impact upon the planning and policy processes, such as for civil service reviews and the implementation of reforms, training, and for the development of tax and budgetary systems. Increasingly the different elements of statistical assistance to individual countries are being drawn together into co-ordinated projects in order to sharpen the focus and effectiveness of this support. In recent years projects in Africa have centred, though not exclusively, on economic statistics in recognition of the need for rehabilitating these areas. ODA support for population activities in Africa focuses upon family planning, information and education. Other substantive assistance is being provided for censuses and demographic data collection, processing and analysis as well as for the development of information technology in a number of countries.

63. The ILO observer indicated that his organization is involved in many areas of technical assistance in Africa and further elaborated on the following: (a) regional technical advisory services. Of the two regional advisers in statistics, one is attached to the African Household Surveys Capability Programme in DSA and the other adviser, based in Dakar, is responsible for labour statistics (other than household surveys). In addition, ILO has regional teams (such as JASPA and SATEP) which provide assistance to governments in manpower planning, labour economics, and other relevant areas; (b) seminars and workshops, ILO assists in national and regional seminars and workshops as required. Recent examples include the workshop on Measuring the Economically Active Population in Population Censuses (Addis Ababa, December 1989) and the Tripartite Symposium on Structural Adjustment and Employment in Africa (Harare, October 1989); (c) national projects, ILO executes a number of national projects on labour statistics. Some examples are the projects in Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda; and (d) manuals, and technical guides, ILO has produced a manual on household surveys of the economically active population, has assisted the United Nations Statistical Office with the technical guide on household income and expenditure surveys, and is producing a manual on occupational coding. Governments were invited to contact ILO if they require assistance or guidance in any of these areas.

64. The International Statistical Programs Center (ISPC) of the United States Bureau of the Census provides technical assistance to developing countries in practical methods of gathering, processing and analyzing data needed for social and economic development. Most of the assistance is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The United Nations, the World Bank and individual governments are using these services. Technical assistance includes: (a) long-term training of statisticians and computer specialists in Washington, D.C., in either English or Spanish; (b) national and regional workshops in host countries (in English, French or Spanish) for either executive or technical staff on population statistics, survey methods, cartography, economic statistics, evaluation studies, statistical methods and data processing; (c) short-term assistance is provided by mathematical statisticians, survey statisticians and data processing specialists to strengthen and support host country institutions in data collection and processing. This is accomplished by working closely with counterpart staff either in the country itself or in Washington, D.C. ISPC staff have French, Spanish and Portuguese language capabilities. Assistance on national agriculture surveys, health and nutrition surveys, population and housing censuses, and demographic surveys is provided. ISPC has also developed and is supporting computer software for both mainframe and microcomputers to perform the major tasks in survey and census data processing. The system is composed of packages for data entry, editing, tabulation, statistical and demographic analysis, and operational control.

65. The FAO observer indicated that in the field of technical assistance, his organization was providing services especially for developing agricultural statistics through implementing projects on data collection and analysis. FAO was also offering technical assistance in the establishment of early-warning systems and crop forecasting as well as in the organization of the world agricultural census which takes place every ten years. He informed the meeting that two FAO regional statisticians were based in Africa, one in Accra at the FAO Regional Office and the other in Addis Ababa at the Joint ECA/FAO Division. These two statisticians provide necessary technical assistance in agricultural statistics.

66. In concluding the consideration of this agenda item, the participants expressed their gratitude to the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, ECA and all donor agencies and institutions which have made valuable contributions to the development of planning, statistics, demography and information sciences in the African region. They hoped that such assistance would continue and be further strengthened.

67. Some participants felt that there was the need to ensure appropriate co-ordination of technical assistance activities in the region in order to avoid duplication.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Election of officers and agenda (agenda item 7)

68. Mr. Finlay Doh (Cameroon) was elected Chairman of the Planning Committee with Mr.Moses A.B. Akpobasah (Nigeria) as Vice-Chairman, Mr. Alimon Mwase (Malawi) was elected rapporteur.

69. The Planning Committee followed agenda items 7-11 as adopted by the plenary. However, agenda item 10, Report of the United Nations African Institute For Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) was discussed in a special session of the Committee on the Institute's financial situation.

Towards implementable AAE-SAP model-types for African countries: Some preliminary specifications [agenda item 8 (a)]

70. The agenda item was discussed jointly with the African Economic Association in a Scientific Colloquium, the report of which is published under symbol E/ECA/AEEA/90/23.

Studies on policy instruments of AAE-SAP: Multiple exchange rates system, differential interest rates policy and production subsidy [agenda item 8 (b)]

71. The agenda item was discussed jointly with the African Economic Association in a Scientific Colloquium, the report of which is published under symbol E/ECA/AEEA/90/23.

Harmonization and co-ordination of national plans at the subregional level (agenda item 9)

72. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/PSD.6/9 on the above subject and indicated that the document first defined the role of subregional planning as an instrument for analysis, co-ordination, harmonization and economic integration. Current practice in terms of harmonization at the macro-economic and sectoral levels (agriculture, industry, transport and trade) was considered in the second part of the document.

73. At the macro level, the study highlighted the lack of subregional planning or even perspective subregional studies that could be used as a framework for harmonizing national development plans. As a matter of fact, even national plans were being disregarded in favour of structural adjustment programmes because of budgetary and external payments imbalances, inadequate financial resources and domestic management constraints. The harmonization of sectoral activities often escaped any planning.

74. In agriculture, plans were harmonized through concerted efforts among States in formulating common agricultural policies in matters of research, training and marketing. The study presented the general framework, the mechanism and agricultural projects that were being harmonized at the subregional level as well as the major constraints to agricultural development planning at the national and subregional levels.

75. In industry, the various subregions were making efforts to implement industrial promotion programmes based on community and national projects likely to strengthen co-operation among the countries and to speed up the harmonization activities. Among the measures were those for stimulating industrial development, remedial action to correct disparities in industrial development levels and the establishment of industrial linkages between existing production units.

76. However, there were many obstacles impeding the success of those activities. The major constraints hampering industrial development at the national and subregional levels were the small size of markets, high production and distribution costs arising from the lack of infrastructure and international money market conditions, dependence on the outside world for equipment, intermediate goods and even technical and managerial expertise.

77. Because of those constraints, the impact of programmes undertaken at the subregional level remained imperceptible. It appeared necessary to evaluate the activities already initiated. Furthermore, the efforts of subregional financing institutions should be more systematically oriented towards industrial activities that promoted the economic integration of the various subregions. This was a matter of urgency as was the strengthening of the co-ordination and planning of industrial development activities.

78. In the various African subregions, the high cost and poor nature of road, rail, air and maritime transport facilities constituted a structural bottleneck to the expansion of trade. The inadequate telecommunications network did nothing to promote such trade expansion. The subregional organizations mentioned in the study were doing all they could to remove those bottlenecks gradually.

79. On the whole, harmonization efforts had focused on: (a) transport and transit regulations; (b) the development of communication infrastructures and facilities; (c) the linking up of existing railway networks; (d) the manufacture of transport equipment and the establishment of community maritime shipping companies and the adoption of a community maritime shipping code together with the creation of national laders' councils.

80. The development of trade was one of the major areas of co-operation identified by the subregional co-operation organizations. The study highlighted the many obstacles to the expansion of trade. Progress made in the harmonization of trade mainly focused on the harmonization of customs documents and formalities together with related procedures, the adoption of a trade liberalization scheme among the countries within the same subregion through the complete removal of tariffs levied on products of community origin and traditional crafts, the phasing out of customs tariffs levied on industrial products, the harmonization of domestic taxation policies, the establishment of an integrated system of tax treatment and external trade statistics.

81. In spite of all the efforts made, the volume of intra-community trade remained very low. In CEAO, intra-Community trade accounted for barely 5 per cent of the trade of all member States with the outside world. Within ECOWAS, exports of cocoa and fruit from Côte d'Ivoire to other ECOWAS countries accounted for about 15 per cent of the total exports of cocoa and fruit from Côte d'Ivoire to the outside world in 1987. The export of crude oil from Nigeria to other ECOWAS members was less than 1 per cent of all its crude oil exports while the exports of meat and livestock from Mali and the Niger to other ECOWAS member countries accounted for 12.7 and 6.2 per cent respectively of their total exports of those products.

82. The study concluded that there were many and substantial obstacles to the development of sectoral planning at the national level and to the harmonization of national plans at the subregional level. Given the unsuited nature of many national plans to deal with the problems and the crisis of national economies, the study recommended that new approaches should be sought and appropriate mechanisms instituted for the planning of economic development in Africa. The review of current planning methods in Africa should make it possible to base planning on popular participation through (a) the integration of local peoples' initiatives into development planning; (b) the integration of the very substantial informal sector in all the countries; (c) the integration of national physical planning into the planning of subregional space; and (d) the rationalization of the current co-operation structures whose sheer number led to a waste of financial and human resources in particular.

83. Following this presentation it was noted that although planning involves a lot of technical specification, its objectives, policies and programmes were largely influenced by political factors. The various plans prepared had laid emphasis on the welfare of the people. At a subregional level a political consensus had first to be achieved in order to ease the great difficulty of co-ordinating and harmonizing plans. Trade was important because it was through trade integration that the private sector of member States is brought together and enabled to operate in a wider market. It was to be hoped that planning would be given a long-term perspective and tend to be more indicative in the light of the ongoing structural adjustment programmes.

84. It was suggested that the current planning methods should be reviewed as advocated in the study conducted by the secretariat. A participant observed that his country had opted for the centralized planning through grass-roots initiatives but the exercise was running into difficulties because of the time and patience it took to take into account the initiatives of various strata of the population. He requested that ECA should undertake indepth studies on the issue so as to facilitate the task of African countries which had embarked on that approach.

85. The poor degree of harmonization of subregional activities should be attributed to the current systems of planning. The participant making this remark stressed the need for concerted action among the various national planning officials in order to review harmonization and planning methods and procedures. Trade integration could result only from the integration and harmonization of development activities. He wondered whether ECA could initiate studies on integrated sectors of certain branches of economic activity giving pride of place to subregional and regional activities. National planning should not only be co-ordinated and harmonized at the subregional level but also continent-wide.

86. It was also pointed out that the study could have been more usefully discussed if the subregional organizations sponsored by ECA had been represented. That would have made for greater co-operation among them under the guidance of ECA.

87. It was further recognized that national development planning was often subjected to significant political influences. Those plans did not work and were in reality nothing more than investment programmes. It was for this reason that subregional and regional harmonization became absolutely necessary for the revival and restructuring

of African economies. It would be necessary to change current planning approaches and to integrate grass-roots initiatives.

88. The view was expressed that the coming years should be characterized by targeted national planning and subregional programming, depending on available resources. Structural adjustment programmes should make way for long-term planning. Subregional integration should go hand in hand with adjustment. The people could be effectively mobilized only when governments actually took grass-roots initiatives into account.

89. The representative of the secretariat expressed his appreciation for the relevant and enriching comments made. He indicated that ECA would do its utmost to reflect their concerns in its work programme. The adoption of new planning approaches implied the strengthening of national planning systems which would in turn go to strengthen subregional planning with a view to speeding up the economic integration of Africa.

Report of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning (agenda item 10)

90. The officer-in-charge of IDEP introduced the document entitled "Progress Report on IDEP activities during the 1988-1989 academic year". During the academic year, IDEP organized a training workshop in collaboration with the EDI/World Bank on Public Expenditures Programming and Management, which was attended by 26 high-level officials from English-speaking countries. Another session of the workshop will be given for French-speaking countries in 1990. The workshop is part of the new short-term training programme to be formally initiated during the current year. The nine-month basic training programme attracted 51 trainees from 21 African countries. An effort was made to update the curriculum in order to make it more relevant to the needs of member States. The Population, Human Resources and Development in Africa specialization course which was started at the beginning of the year with UNFPA sponsorship was attended by 21 participants from 21 African countries. The course represents a new and promising experiment which should be replicated for the other specialization programmes given by the Institute. The specialization course on Agriculture and Rural Development was organized for the first time, 18 high-level officials taking part. Because of the problems involved, the course was given for English-speaking participants only. Support was obtained from FAO, Dakar University and the "Institut sénégalais de recherches agricoles".

91. While it was hoped that a Research Unit would be established in IDEP during 1988/1989, the project was not implemented because of UNDP concerns of possible duplication with other programmes it supports. However, the Institute did carry out some research activities which led to publications and preparatory work was done on the organization of a seminar on public enterprises and privatization in co-operation with the University of Michigan.

92. The work programme for 1989-1990 is roughly in line with the one for 1988/1989. In fact, the academic year has already started, and the first part of the nine-month basic course has been completed. Also there are good prospects that IDEP will be able to secure support from bilateral and multilateral sources for its programme. However, it all depended on the solution of the present acute financial crisis of the Institute and particularly on the success of its present restructuring exercise in co-operation with UNDP.

93. The officer-in-charge of IDEP gave an account of the conditions set by UNDP for its continued support to the Institute during 1990 and particularly of the restructuring report completed on the recommendations of the subcommittee of the Governing Council which met in Dakar in November 1989.

94. The discussion following the presentation of the report focused primarily on the financial crisis of the Institute. After recalling that the member States had never lived up to their commitments to the Institute and that UNDP had decided to stop its support of the core activities of IDEP by the end of 1990, the officer-in-charge informed the Committee that contributions for 1989 had fallen short of the modest objective of $US 450,000 and that presently there were no resources to pay for the activities which have to be covered by African member States' contributions. In effect, the Institute should suspend its activities on strict financial terms. The restructuring proposal provided for some activities to be included in the regular budget of ECA, member States undertaking to pay regularly their contributions, UNDP supporting restructured training activities as well as the new research and advisory services and the management of IDEP mobilizing external resources. However, no solution was possible without member States acting to resolve the immediate needs of the Institute for finance, in a situation where the staff of the Institute cannot be paid at the end of the current month of January 1990.

95. In the discussions, clarification was sought on the situation of payments in 1989 and some suggestions were made as to the need to better inform member States about IDEP activities and particularly the status of contributions. These suggestions were welcomed by the officer-of-charge of IDEP who informed the Committee that contributions for 1989 reached roughly $US 410,000 and that no contribution had been received since October 1989.

96. The Committee then considered a resolution on the financial situation of IDEP. It invited the officer-in-charge of IDEP to introduce it. The Committee members considered that the appeal to member States to pay immediately two years of their accumulated arrears was not realistic and also commented upon the request to the Executive Secretary of ECA for the inclusion of core activities in the regular budget. The Deputy Executive Secretary impressed upon the participants the urgency of the situation facing IDEP which needed immediate support from governments. Moreover, questions concerning the organ empowered to deal with the financial aspect of IDEP activities were irrelevant, since the Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers was fully entitled to directly call upon member States in this crisis situation. After an extended discussion, it was decided to amend the resolution by calling upomon member States to pay immediately their 1989 arrears and their contribution for 1990 to IDEP, while introducing other amendments to reinforce the urgency of the situation.

97. Finally, the officer-in-charge of IDEP informed the Committee that four posts were to be renewed in the Governing Council of IDEP and called upon the participants to consult in the various subregions in order to select the new members.

98. The results of the election to the Governing Council of IDEP for the four vacant positions were endorsed as follows:

East and Southern Africa

(1) Mrs. Motlehi M. Matabane
Ministry of Planning, Economic
and Manpower Development
P.O. Box 630
Maseru
Lesotho

(2) Mr. George Kaizzi Tebigwayo
Ag. Chief Government Planning Economist
P.O. Box 7088
Kampala
Uganda

Central Africa
One vacancy: No election

North Africa
One vacancy: No election

99. The Planning Committee, through the sixth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, invites the eleventh meeting of the Technical Committee of the Whole (TEKPCOW) to elect representatives for the North and Central African subregions and submit their names to the sixteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers for ratification.

Report on ECA planning activities (1988-1989), review of approved work programme (1990-1991) and consideration of draft work programme (1992-1993) and medium-term plan (1992-1997 (agenda item 11)

100. A representative of the secretariat presented document E/ECA/PSD.6/11. In his introduction, he pointed out that the work programme is essentially geared towards the implementation of the regionally agreed development strategies such as the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final Act of Lagos, the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERDD), the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP), sectoral plans and sectoral development decades.

101. The activities carried out in the 1988-1989 biennium fall under three broad categories, namely subprogramme 1: Socio-economic analysis, planning and projections; subprogramme 2: Fiscal, monetary and financial issues at the national level; and subprogramme 3: Least developed countries.

102. In the field of socio-economic analysis, planning and projections, the activities undertaken relate to five major areas: technical assistance and advisory services upon request: assistance was provided for some countries in the region to assist in the preparation of development programmes, recovery plans, investment programmes, contingency planning, etc.; social and economic conditions in Africa for 1986-1987 and

1987-1988; and the annual economic report for 1988 and 1989; establishment of short-term forecasting systems to monitor development in the short term and to assess the policy implications: the system was established in some African countries in the framework of strengthening planning techniques and methodologies and upgrading the planning capabilities at the country level; review of the progress of the implementation of regional development strategies: a number of development plans covering post-LPA periods had been analyzed in the light of the objectives, strategies and policies of the regional development strategies; preparation of development perspectives: the activities were undertaken in the framework of developing the modalities for establishing country-specific development perspectives.

103. The activities under subprogramme 2: Fiscal monetary, and financial issues at the national level, were undertaken in the context of assisting countries in the implementation of fiscal and monetary policies in particular in areas of mobilization and channelling of personal savings and the role of domestic money markets in development.

104. The activities undertaken under subprogramme 3: least developed countries, include technical assistance in planning, project preparation and organization of round-tables; review of economic and social conditions in individual LDCs; evaluation of the effectiveness of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the LDCs; and indepth studies on the economies of LDCs, in particular study on human resource development and utilization and financial structures and resource utilization.

105. As regards the approved work programme for 1990-1991, the activities to be undertaken will continue to address themselves to problems relating to enhancing planning capabilities at the country level and research in critical areas to assess and review various aspects of social and economic development in African countries in the light of the objectives of development strategies. Moreover, continued in-depth studies of the economies of LDCs will be undertaken to address critical areas, and the evaluation of the Substantial New Programme of Action.

106. In the projected work programme for 1992-1993, emphasis would be given to the preparation of surveys and reports on the socio-economic situation, evaluation of the impact of structural adjustment programmes including the operationalization aspects of the ECA macro-economic model of AAF-SAP, assessment of the effectiveness of subregional economic schemes of co-operation with a view to developing the modalities for the establishment of the African Common Market, preparation of long-term development studies to contemplate on African countries future development, mobilization of domestic resources for development financing and the building and strengthening of financial institutions, and assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the second United Nations Conference on the LDCs in the context of the long-term development strategies.

107. He then called upon the meeting to examine the broad aspects of the proposed work programme and decided on the priorities with a view to enabling the secretariat to prepare a work programme for the 1992-1993 biennium for submission to the seventeenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

108. In the discussion that followed, it was indicated that the report lacks information on the legislative authority which mandates the work programme, the modalities by which it was implemented, and whether it met the objectives of the secretariat and the objectives of the beneficiaries. The secretariat indicated that mandate emanated from the Conference of Ministers and the Planning Committee that had the mandate to make recommendations to the Conference of Ministers. It was also pointed out that there is need for co-ordination with other agencies and organizations in order to avoid duplications and wastage. The meeting noted the broad areas of the work programme and made some specific suggestions for inclusion in particular the need for strengthening the capacities for establishing long-term development perspectives at the country level, more emphasis on the process of economic co-operation and integration in Africa in the face of the growing tendencies towards the creation of regionalized blocs economies in the 1990s and more attention to the problem of food security. Finally, paragraph 4 was to be amended in line with document E/ECA/PSD.6/2, Review of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1988-1989.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 13)

STATISTICS COMMITTEE

109. The Committee adopted its report.

Election of officers (agenda item 5)

110. The Statistics Committee elected Mrs. Mitiku Kassaye (Ethiopia) as Chairperson, Mr. Abdellatif Belkouch (Morocco) as First Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Lamine Cisse (Mali) as Second Vice-Chairperson and Mr. Sergio F. T. da S. Cruz (Mozambique) as Rapporteur.

An integrated approach to the development of statistics: The Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA) (agenda item 14)

111. In introducing document E/ECA/PSD.6/12 entitled "The Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA)", the secretariat mentioned three UNDP-funded projects, namely the "operational support to the improvement and expansion of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA)" the "African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP)" which is a regional component of the United Nations Household Survey Capability Programme (UNHSCP) and the "Assistance to least developed and newly independent countries in national accounts". As of July 1987, all three projects were integrated to constitute the SDPA with the purpose of achieving greater impact and co-ordination. He gave further details on the objectives of the integrated project, its staffing and activities in the areas of statistical training, household surveys, national accounts and basic economic statistics and data base development. It was mentioned that training was an important part of the activities of the project.

112. In the discussion that followed, participants expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far in the various areas of the project and hoped that this would be maintained. UNDP was urged to increase its financial support for the project in its fifth programming cycle beginning in 1992.

113. A participant raised the issue of balancing theory and practice in the teaching programmes at statistical training institutions. The representative of the secretariat explained that the ECA guide syllabuses which were developed between 1982-1985 for different levels of training could be used to correct the existence of any imbalance between theory and practice. An evaluation of the use of these guide syllabuses at statistical training institutions which was conducted by the secretariat in 1987 and discussions held at the fifth meeting of directors of STPA centres in 1987 indicated that over 80 per cent of the contents of the guide syllabuses were used for various purposes.

114. With respect to the area of basic economic statistics and national accounts, a participant expressed the hope that the project would organize training of existing staff at national statistical offices, particularly in view of the recent revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA). Such training would enable the staff to implement the new aspects of the system with less difficulty. A representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that such training activities could be undertaken during advisory missions (on-the-job training) and also during country or regional workshops which may be organized to address issues regarding the revised SNA. It was mentioned that the post of regional adviser in national accounts, funded from the United Nations regular programme for technical co-operation, was expected to be filled soon to strengthen the team of regional advisers in the field of national accounts and basic economic statistics.

115. Several participants expressed the view that monitoring and evaluation needed to be made part of the project to enable assessment of the impact of the programme and in particular to look into possible failures and successes of the project activities. The Committee was informed that such procedures existed, including the yearly project performance and evaluation reports which are submitted to UNDP headquarters and sent to countries for comments, tripartite review meetings, the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, the biennial meetings of directors of STPA centres and the internal evaluation of the project conducted by the secretariat from time to time. Mention was made of the forthcoming technical evaluation of the project which is expected to take place during the first quarter of 1990 to enable recommendations to be made regarding the financing and future focus of the project activities.

116. The issue of lack of fellowships for trainees was addressed by several participants. In a number of countries, fellowships tended to be linked to projects. Participants requested countries to set up scholarship funds for statistical training in view of the fact that trained statisticians would in general be useful to the whole economy.

117. Regarding the problem of linkage of African statistical training institutions with those outside Africa, the representative of the secretariat mentioned the twinning/linkage arrangements promoted within the framework of the "FFC assistance project to STPA". This twinning/linkage was generally between STPA and associate STPA centres. The preparation of teaching materials, conduct of joint research, training of trainers, provision of needed teaching and research equipment, etc., are some of the benefits of such arrangements.

118. A participant mentioned the problem of unemployment of those trained at statistical training centres. This was attributed to general deteriorating economic situations in some countries and to structural adjustment policies in others. He felt that there was need to make recommendations which would solve this problem. The representative of the secretariat indicated that a solution might be to educate the general public on the usefulness of statisticians. Also courses of direct relevance to the private sector could be offered to increase the chances of employment for successful trainees.

119. Regarding the activities undertaken by the data base specialist in the SDPA project, mention was made of provision of advisory services and establishment of statistical data bases in some countries. Reports on these activities are available in the secretariat. The representative of the secretariat mentioned the existence, in the regular budget, of the post of Chief of Statistical Data Base in the Statistical Development Section of the Statistics Division which once filled could also assist in the development and establishment of statistical data bases at ECA and, to some extent, at the country level.

120. In the field of censuses and demographic surveys, the United Nations Statistical Office/DTCD representative mentioned the contribution which UNFPA was making through the Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics (RASDS) project. The project has eight regional advisers and assistance in the field of censuses and demographic surveys conducted in the region is one of its activities. He also informed the meeting of the request received by his office to assist in mounting a training programme in household surveys on the lines of the NHSCP training programme already being conducted in New Delhi, India. African countries are already taking advantage of the New Delhi training programme. He further mentioned that given the expressed demand, the introduction of such a programme in Africa was long overdue. The question of resource constraints needs to be addressed and that the initiative for mounting such a programme needs to come from the ECA secretariat. The representative of the secretariat informed the participants that within the limitations of available resources attempts would be made to promote such courses at selected STPA centres within the framework of the SDPA.

121. The meeting also discussed the issue of research and experimentation which was a subject of discussion in many fora including the Commonwealth Workshops on Food Supply Information Systems in Africa, the first of which was organized in October 1986 in New Delhi, India and the second in March 1989 in Nairobi, Kenya. These discussions were continued at the Intergovernmental Working Group on Household Surveys which was organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in October 1989. The meeting requested the ECA secretariat to take appropriate action in this area. The representative of the secretariat stated that the problem of lack of research and experimentation was related to lack of financial resources. The establishment of research projects which could attract donor funding could be a solution, the twinning/linkage of training institutions in Africa with those outside Africa is another. Under the SDPA project research is promoted indirectly through the training of trainers at STPA centres and the provision of limited equipment. These trainers are expected to conduct research when they return to their respective centres. In addition, at the biennial meetings of directors of STPA centres the issue of research and experimentation continued to

be addressed. Surveys on research at STPA centres had also been conducted by the secretariat.

122. The observer for the USSR gave information on technical assistance which could be provided by his Government on request. Such assistance had so far been provided to a number of African countries. Two- to three-month courses could be organized by the USSR State Committee of Statistics. He gave as an example the working group on the integration of demographic and social statistics in development planning in Africa held in Moscow in September 1987, which was attended by 30 African countries and the ECA secretariat. He also mentioned the courses offered in Tashkent, USSR which countries could take advantage of.

123. The observer for CESD-Paris informed the meeting about the various CESDs which exist in Europe. CESD-Paris was established in 1962 and until May 1989, it was known as CESD. CESD-Lisbon is located in the Portuguese National Statistical Institute and would train high-level statisticians from Portuguese-speaking African countries beginning in October 1990. CESD-Madrid is currently being established. Its main function will be to organize seminars for statisticians from Spanish-speaking countries including those in Latin America and Equatorial Guinea. All these CESDs are non-profit organizations. An association named "CESD-communautaire" has been created to co-ordinate the activities of the various CESDs. He further mentioned that the Munich Centre is closely associated with the CESD family. He requested the secretariat to provide four name plates to cover all four CESDs at future meetings. He indicated that paragraph 137 of the report of the sixth meeting of directors of centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) should be corrected to reflect the fact that ISSEA and CESD-Lisbon would participate in the STPA as one STPA centre, like CESD-Paris.

124. The observer of ILO gave information on research and development in particular research on the informal sector surveys which was being undertaken by his organization. He requested participants who might be interested in this type of research to contact him or ILO in Geneva.

125. Participants agreed that there was need to strengthen the SDPA in the various areas which it covered and recommended that this strengthening should be critically addressed during the UNDP fifth programming cycle. In particular, the need to enhance regional capability for SDSCP and NAFP components of the SDPA and to provide adequate financial resources to STPA centres to make them fully operational was stressed. As far as the latter is concerned such enhancement would include additional resources for the organization of seminars/workshops, establishment of a programme of fellowships and establishment of household survey courses at selected STPA centres.

126. Finally, the participants adopted the reports of the four meetings which were held within the framework of the SDPA project. They are "Report of the Working Group on Improving the Basic Economic Statistics required for planning purposes" (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 19 to 23 September 1988, English-speaking group); "Rapport du groupe de travail sur l'amélioration des statistiques économiques de base requises pour la planification" (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 19 to 23 September 1988 (French- and Portuguese-speaking group); "Report of the Working Group on Household Surveys" (Addis

participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA)" (Addis Ababa, 4 to 8 December 1989).

Progress report on the implementation of the environment statistics programme for Africa (agenda item 15)

127. A representative of the secretariat introduced agenda item 15 by pointing to the three main areas covered in the report E/ECA/PSD.6/13: (a) the overview of ECA's work in developing a regional data base and in assisting member States in establishing environment statistics in the 1988-1989 biennium; (b) the work programme for the biennium 1990-1991; and (c) items for discussion on future activities in order to achieve the medium-term objective of establishing a minimum programme of environment statistics in member States.

128. While all outputs for which resources had been provided through the regular budget had been implemented, the secretariat regretted that resources had been insufficient for carrying out all planned activities to strengthen national capacities. Only one member State's request for advisory services could be accommodated within the budget and none of the workshops could be held. In presenting the 1990-1991 programme budget, the hope was expressed that more extrabudgetary resources would be made available since African countries as well as donors have been expressing keen interest in the field. Such assistance would be needed, inter alia, to prepare and conduct seminars and workshops for developing regional adaptations of technical methods to be published in guidelines for environment statistics. Suggestions were invited on means for mobilizing resources as well as on substantive and procedural elements for a medium-term perspective for developing environment statistics in Africa. Such elements could include training at various levels and institutions, expanded ad hoc advisory services, co-operation among member States and with statistical services outside the region; workshops and seminars for adapting concepts, methods and definitions to environmental conditions and developmental problems in Africa, including environmental accounting; and the initiation of a Standing Working Group on Environment Statistics for further development of a regional data base in which agencies and interested countries would participate.

129. The representative of the secretariat informed the participants of two methodological studies prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office addressing concepts and methods of environment statistics: the first report, dealing with human settlement statistics, was released in 1988; the second one on natural environment is available in draft form. In addition, a report on environmental accounting is under preparation. These documents would provide a basis for the development of regional concepts. Regarding support and co-operation in the areas of training, workshops and seminars as well as data base improvement, the meeting was informed that recent discussions with representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had been encouraging.

130. During the discussion, several participants underscored the importance of environment statistics, a new field in statistics in Africa. Given the extent of environmental problems like soil erosion on the continent, this area deserved greater attention.

131. It was further stressed that the field of environment statistics was new to African statistical services and that further education of directors of statistical offices would be needed. Multilateral donors which are emphasizing the extent of environmental problems in Africa were called upon to give appropriate support to the field. The secretariat was requested to make available guidelines which could be used for developing country-by-country approaches. If resources were not forthcoming to conduct workshops, it should even be considered to send working documents to member States.

132. The Director of the Munich Centre took up the suggestion contained in the document to carry out training of trainers and informed the meeting that his institution had decided to deal with environment statistics in 1991-1992. A Working Group involving ECA would be established shortly to define the precise scope and content of training activities to be carried out.

133. The observer for EEC/Eurostat informed the meeting that her organization was carrying out consultations with different countries on the continuation of STPA and that the future programme would provide for workshops at the national, sub-regional and regional levels in the field of environment statistics. This would, for example, also include the preparation of teaching aids. Further, the organization of short courses linking European and African statistical offices could be explored.

134. The observer for the USSR stressed that the United Nations Statistical Commission had declared environment statistics to be a field of greatest importance. He indicated the possibilities for obtaining assistance on conceptual matters, for example classifications, from the Conference of European Statisticians.

135. In response, the representative of the secretariat expressed gratitude for the valuable comments and, in particular, for the encouraging feed-back regarding the provision of resources from EEC as well as the support from the Munich Centre. Regarding the suggestion to draw upon available expertise in European statistical offices, the meeting was informed that discussions with the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) had been initiated by ECA. As far as ECE classifications were concerned, they were being considered if they pertained to African priorities. The participants were informed that a request for a seminar on new and renewable sources of energy in the context of environment statistics, to be held in 1991, had been prepared by ECA for submission to the Government of the USSR.

136. It was stressed that conceptual development leading to the publication of the guidelines for environment statistics in Africa should make optimal use of existing work. Considerable resources would, however, still need to be devoted to the exchange of the technical and practical experiences among countries. There was also the need for improved organization, interpretation and presentation of existing data for environmental purposes and the utilization of micro-computer applications for spatial analysis of data.

Indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving social goals in the 1990s: Assessment of social dimensions of structural adjustment (agenda item 16)

UNICEF/UNFPA/United Nations Statistical Office proposal [agenda item 16 (a)]

137. The Statistics Committee deliberated on a joint UNICEF/UNFPA/United Nations Statistical Office proposal on indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving social goals in the development decade of the 1990s as detailed in document E/ECA/PSD.6/14 which was presented to the Committee by a representative of the United Nations Statistical Office.

138. Noting that the proposal had been referred to by the Executive Secretary in his opening statement to the Joint Conference, it was observed that the paper was essentially the report of a working group of experts from UNICEF, UNFPA and the United Nations Statistical Office which had earlier been submitted to and endorsed by the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities at its meeting in June 1989. It was pointed out that the aim of the present proposal is to take an objective look at the statistical and survey programmes of developing countries in the light of recent developments, from the viewpoint of the social goals prepared for the 1990s, and to strengthen national capabilities, wherever necessary, to enable them to produce current indicators on at least the more important fields such as fertility, infant and child mortality, nutrition, educational attainment, employment and unemployment, and the status of women. It was observed that though the proposal was still at a preliminary stage, the approach advocated involved primary reliance on household surveys to supplement data from other sources. The Committee was informed that the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities had mostly supported the proposal and requested the United Nations Statistical Office and interested agencies to continue developmental work for its elaboration. It was further noted that to facilitate this, pilot projects were to be launched in several countries to assess the technical, administrative and practical problems of social monitoring. In this context, the participants were invited to comment on the preliminary review of measurement objectives and methodological requirements as detailed in the proposal.

139. Finally, it was noted that the proposal envisages co-ordination of the programme through the United Nations Statistical Office as an adjunct to the NHSCP, with the assistance of the regional commissions and the co-operation of specialized agencies. Funding support when necessary was expected to be provided by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP and perhaps other donor countries under bilateral or multilateral arrangements.

140. The Committee welcomed the proposal on monitoring achievement of social goals in the 1990s. It endorsed the broad outline of the proposal as well as the rationale of the initiative. In response to a query on complementarity of this proposal with other national and international programmes, it was indicated that there was provision for using available sets of data supplemented, when necessary, by additional data collection, making maximum use of ongoing national and international programmes. Additionally, in response to further query, it was noted that the proposal accorded priority to national needs fully appreciating that individual countries are likely to have a strong interest in sub-group estimates, regional differences and urban-rural comparisons.

Assessment of social dimensions of structural adjustment [agenda item 16 (b)]

141. The World Bank observer presented document E/ECA/PSD.6/15 on the social dimensions of adjustment (SDA) project and its implications for statistics, contributed by the World Bank.

142. In his presentation, he briefed the participants on the formation and objectives of the SDA project, established in 1987 jointly by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, ADB and the World Bank. Since then, a number of other multilateral and bilateral donor agencies have joined the project. The principal objective of the project is to assist countries in introducing social dimensions in the development planning process.

143. He mentioned that the project operates at two levels, namely regional and country level. At the country level, the project is initiated with the preparation of a country assessment paper (CAP) which includes a poverty profile for the country using existing data sources. The subsequent project may then be composed of several elements such as policy, social action programmes as well as the strengthening of national information systems. He indicated that in introducing social dimensions into planning policies, the monitoring of the conditions of social groups became a necessity. In this regard, he informed the participants that the project proposes analysis at three levels: macro, meso and micro.

144. He indicated that data would need to be collected at each of these levels. At the micro level, he observed that SDA proposes two main survey instruments which include (a) priority surveys, which identify the vulnerable groups and collect data to monitor changes without explaining the observations, and (b) intensive household surveys (IHS) which have the objective of explaining the behaviour of various households.

145. He indicated that it was not the intention of the SDA to replace the existing programmes but rather to supplement them. Further, he mentioned that in a number of countries both the SMSCP and the SDA may be operating together, for example in Malawi and Ghana.

146. He also informed the participants that the project includes as part of the institution-building components, a training programme which extends from data collection, through data processing, to analysis and policy planning.

147. In the discussions that followed, participants focused their attention on a number of issues which included the concept of vulnerable group as used in the document; the future of the project and its financial implications; relationships with other existing programmes; and distribution of relevant documents. In addition it was noted that the Working Group on Household Surveys held in October 1989 also discussed this topic and made a number of additional remarks which had been noted in their report.

148. Some participants referred to the issue of vulnerable group as conceptualized in the document and wondered whether it is feasible to measure it in view of variations within countries and, more so, between countries. The World Bank observer

responded that the SDA is preparing a number of analysis plans to help guide analysts in the task.

149. A comment was made that the document had not clarified the financial implications of the project. Related to the financial implications was a question on the future of the project. The presenter responded that before launching the project in any country, an assessment study is first conducted. He also indicated that one of the aims is to build the necessary institutions to ensure continuity.

150. Referring to the issue of the relationship of the project with other existing programmes, some participants expressed continued concern as to how the SDA survey programme would relate to existing programmes. It was pointed out that it was vital to make use of past experience.

151. A question was raised regarding the distinction between the SDA and the Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS), both of which stem from the same organization, and the confusion that could result from the two programmes. The presenter clarified the difference between the two and explained that in any SDA country, LSMS-type surveys would only be carried out under the umbrella of the SDA survey programme. There should thus be no confusion.

152. In response to various suggestions and comments, the observer for the World Bank noted that contrary to some views expressed, the SDA project seeks to work closely with the existing programmes. He further mentioned that the SDA will take note of all comments made by various participants and build these into its future work programme.

Progress report on the World Bank/UNDP/ECA project on data collection in relation to development programmes and aid flows in Africa (agenda item 17)

Assessment of national statistical capability (agenda item 7 (a))

153. In introducing this agenda item, the representative of the secretariat gave a brief background of the project, stating that it began in 1987 and that its two main objectives were: (a) to provide necessary statistical data for the different reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the follow-up of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD); and (b) to prepare a report on the statistical deficiencies of African countries and recommend measures to strengthen their capabilities.

154. He then presented document E/ECA/PSD.6/16, indicating that it was a summary of the reports of the missions carried out in 32 African countries on the major problems identified with regard to institutional arrangements, statistical production, human resources, budget and technical assistance. The links between these problems as well as the importance of the role of the director of the national statistical service in the area of management were emphasized.

155. A participant observed that the document only gave general information on the statistical capacity of African countries covered by the survey. It would be necessary to give quantified and detailed specific information regarding budget,

staffing and equipment needed to attain optimum operating capacity. Such information should be made available to all the governments.

156. The observer for INSEE described the experience of his organization in the evaluation of statistical capabilities. To prepare national accounts for a country having a population of 10 to 15 million, 15 national accounting experts were required. This was difficult to obtain because of the problems mentioned earlier and therefore the search for other solutions must continue.

157. The observer for the World Bank informed the meeting that of the reports produced by his organization under this project, the most recent was a document entitled "African Economic and Financial Data". Such information was also available on diskettes and could be provided to users upon request. He wished to know what progress the secretariat had made in the compilation of environment statistics.

158. The secretariat took due note of the comments made and stated that E/ECA/PSD.6/16 was a summary of country monographs. It had been prepared on the basis of a questionnaire that national statistical offices had filled out and the discussions held with national statistical services. Each country report gave quantified and detailed information and contained recommendations. The secretariat intended to finalize the document and include statistical figures which would enable the effort by a country to obtain optimum operating capacity to be evaluated.

159. The World Bank had been assigned responsibility for the primary objective of the project which had been attained with the publication of the economic and financial data mentioned earlier. With regard to environment statistics, national consultants had been recruited to collect information, mainly indicators related to drought and desertification. Data were so far received from 15 out of 45 sub-Saharan African countries, with 10 countries supplying satisfactory responses. It was stressed in this connection that environment statistics, where it existed at all, was in its early stages and that any data collection exercise therefore encountered problems in accessing data and constructing consistent national series.

Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s [agenda item 17 (b)]

160. Under this agenda item, a representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/PSD.6/17: "Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s". The attention of the Committee was drawn to the last 30 years of statistical development in the African region and it was noted that during the period just before the majority of African countries became independent, it was appreciated that their development efforts would need the support of reasonably comprehensive statistics. Thus after independence local professional staff were trained to replace expatriates and also to remedy acute staff shortages at the sub-professional level. The 1960s were therefore devoted largely to training and the further establishment of ongoing statistical operations with multilateral and bilateral assistance.

161. The 1970s and the second United Nations Development Decade generated events that brought changes in outlook which made considerable impact on African statistics and resulted in speedier, even if not properly streamlined, production of statistical data

throughout the African region. The secretariat acknowledged that the provision of multilateral and bilateral assistance to the African countries was a major input in their statistical development.

162. The representative of the secretariat noted that towards the end of the 1970s and throughout the 1980s, the African continent suffered severe economic crisis and public expenditures were curtailed in many countries. This affected the process of statistical development as much-needed resources were reduced precisely at the time when the need for quantitative information was at its highest. Unexpectedly, African statistical production stagnated. In some areas there were even perceptible reverses of earlier achievements and the progress towards building up national statistical capabilities was slowed down. The representative of the secretariat noted that external assistance would still be needed for large-scale data collection like censuses and surveys, but not for other forms of statistical activities.

163. A representative of the secretariat indicated that the economic crisis was not the only reason for the deterioration in African statistical development and perhaps not the most important. Among other reasons were the waning of the political will that fuelled earlier achievements; the lack of appreciation for the role of quantitative information in development planning, monitoring and evaluation; the low status of statistical services vis-a-vis other services, even the planning ministry; the lack of proper management; tendency towards routine in some statistical services.

164. He said that in the light of the increasing demand for statistics to help formulate short-term management policies and long-term development planning, document E/ECA/PSD.6/17 was intended as a call for action to help redress the deteriorating process of statistical development in the African region and also further that development. In this connection, it was noted that the recommendations in the document assigned specific roles to African Governments, national statistical services, international organizations and multilateral and bilateral donors.

165. The secretariat had prepared a draft Plan of Action on the basis of recommendations made in the ECA assessment of African statistical capacity in the context of the UNDP/World Bank/ECA project as reported under agenda item 17 (a). Unfortunately, it had not been possible to convene an expert group meeting prior to this Conference to consider the draft Plan.

166. In the ensuing discussions, many participants congratulated the secretariat on taking the initiative to present the draft Plan of Action. Some participants suggested some improvements to the draft Plan. The need for national statistical advisory councils and research units within national statistical services was emphasized. A participant noted that an apparent conflict existed between the call made in the plan for increased and sustainable resources from national governments to their statistical services and the calls for budgetary restraints in the implementation of structural adjustment programmes.

167. The observer for the World Bank stated that it seemed paradoxical that statistical services should be among the first to suffer cuts in budgetary appropriations during crisis and precisely at a time when data needs for effective management and monitoring of the macro-economic process were particularly high. This

was due possibly to weak links between producers and users of statistics and those persons responsible for making budgetary appropriation. One possible solution could be to strengthen statistical activities in line ministries, thus reducing the problem of inadequate resources at the level of the central statistical service and also placing some statistical activities close to user ministries. He noted that private sector participation in data collection should be encouraged, and more attention given to data analysis with the use of new and emerging technology.

168. Several participants stressed that over the last 10 years or more, there had been a tendency for external assistance to be concentrated in certain areas of statistics, e.g., demography, while other areas, e.g., economic statistics, were completely neglected. They also noted that this tendency had very adverse effects on the development of economic statistics such as movement of trained staff from other areas of statistics to demographic statistics in search of better job opportunities. They called on donors to increase their assistance to work on the development of economic statistics in the African region in the 1990s. A participant noted that some donor agencies were interested in projects yielding quick returns. However, it needed to be recognized that statistical development was a long-term endeavour.

169. The observer for ILO informed the Committee that his organization would continue to support statistical development in the African region through its technical advisory service in the context of the AHSCP. He stated that demand for such assistance is already high and was bound to increase in the 1990s. At the present time there are only two regional advisers one of whom was funded by ILO under the AHSCP with the result that not all requests could be met. The Committee agreed that the United Nations system be requested to put more resources into the programme.

170. The observer for EEC noted that there appeared to be a need for better co-operation between national statistical services and statistical training centres. One way of increasing such co-operation could be through collaboration in organizing workshops and seminars. In a reference to the lack of co-operation in the delivery of assistance by some donor agencies, he said that this was unfortunate but that some of the responsibility for this situation would seem to lie on national ministries responsible for priority setting and co-ordination of assistance.

171. The observer for INSEE stated that it was important that governments were aware of the crucial role of statistics in the development process, and gave adequate support. Statistical services should have an independent status and further strategies needed to be pursued which would satisfy statistical training needs in African countries. He noted that producer/user committees should include the private sector, trade unions, etc. Statistical activities could be conducted in collaboration with the African Statistical Association (AFSA) and thus provide opportunities for conducting research in an individual capacity.

172. The observer for FAO observed that the low level of donor assistance to agricultural statistics was probably a reflection of the low priority given to the subject by African countries in allocations under their indicative planning figure (IPF).

173. The observer for ADB stressed the need for bridging the demand/supply gap in statistics. He further stated that statistical services should increase their activities in the area of projections, analysis and research and not leave such functions to other institutions, e.g., central bank. He emphasized the need for adequate and continuous government support for statistics, with the understanding that there could be some problems in times of financial crisis. Finally, he appealed to statisticians to make their products marketable and called for training of more middle-level statistical staff and national counterparts.

174. The observer for CESD-Paris stated that in the area of training the aim should be to strengthen existing training institutions and make them more productive rather than setting up new ones.

175. The observer for UNIDO noted that, wherever possible, development projects should be designed so as to generate internationally comparable data.

176. The meeting initially felt that the time available to the Statistics Committee may not be enough to thoroughly consider the draft Plan. It was stated that such a consideration should be carried out by a working group which, in addition to the Plan, could consider other urgent issues such as the statistical data needs and follow-up to AAF-SAP. It was noted that there was considerable external interest in these areas and that African statisticians should, therefore have an opportunity to discuss these issues.

177. It was further observed that the often-made statement that statistical services have not been able to meet the data needs of planners may not be entirely true. Some African statistical services have been able to meet these needs.

178. The meeting called on countries to set priorities for their statistical development and stressed the need for setting up national data bases on which to rest the data which will be generated in the 1990s. The need for increased resources for further developing economic statistics, for example, agricultural statistics, was stressed. It was observed that African countries should set their priorities for statistical development and not allow outside interests to distort such priorities.

179. The meeting called for the creation of indigenous and sustainable statistical capabilities within the African region and for the creation of institutional arrangements at the regional level, to sustain such capabilities.

180. Finally, the Statistics Committee reached a consensus to submit the draft Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s to a sub-committee to be convened during the present session. The sub-committee was asked to review the draft and to report back to the Statistics Committee.

Report on programme implementation by the Statistics Division (1988-1989), review of approved work programme (1990-1991) and consideration of draft work programme (1992-1993) and medium-term plan (1992-1997) (agenda item 8)

181. In introducing the two background documents for this agenda item, entitled "Review of ECA statistical activities (1988-1989) and future work programme"

(E/ECA/PSD.6/18) and "Draft medium-term plan, 1992-1997" (E/ECA/PSD.6/19), a representative of the secretariat reported on the work performance of the ECA Statistics Division for the period 1988-1989, requested the participants to consider the approved programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and the proposed work programme narrative for the biennium 1992-1993 and presented the draft medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

182. He pointed out that the Statistics Division had operated with a high rate of vacant posts during the 1988-1989 biennium due to the long delay in filling these posts following the lifting of the recruitment freeze. Thus, the Division could use only of 62.5 per cent of the total work-months originally allocated. However, the situation was much better at the end of the period as most of the vacancies had been filled during the latter part of 1989.

183. He also reported that savings amounting to $US 3 million were to be used to provide ECA with office automation and micro-computing facilities, including software and staff training. Two missions had been sent by United Nations Headquarters and had called for the improvement of such facilities as a matter of priority, but a recommendation to that effect has so far not been implemented. If the current situation were allowed to continue ECA would be severely limited in its ability to serve its member States effectively.

184. In the discussions that followed, the participants congratulated the secretariat on its implementation rate for 1988-1989 taking into account the difficulties it had experienced in respect of available staff resources. They also expressed the wish that seminars and workshops which could not be held during the biennium 1988-1989 should be organized during the biennium 1990-1991, except for one intergovernmental working group on processing of census, civil registration and sample survey data [output 3.3 (ii)]. This latter output should be terminated in view of the explanation given by the secretariat. The meeting also agreed that the following outputs from the 1988-1989 work programme should be terminated:

Outputs

1.2 (i) (b) Report to the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on the survey of member States' requirements for developing statistical data bases

1.3 (i) Report to the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on the Statistical Training Programme for Africa

2.1 (i) (a) Report to the "Intergovernmental Working Group on Improving the Basic Statistics Required for Planning" on the use of census, survey and administrative data in national accounts

2.3 (iii) (a) Technical publication on the ECOWAS system of international trade statistics for government statisticians and planners

2.5 (d) Technical publication on road transport statistics for government statisticians and planners

2.5 (e) Technical publication on review of statistics on youth and women in agriculture and distribution for government statisticians and planners

3.2 Technical publications: Methods and problems of data processing in the 1990 round of population and housing censuses of the member States of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa, for government statisticians, demographers and planners

3.3 (iii) Technical publication: Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental working group on processing of census, civil registration and sample survey data.

185. In addition, the meeting recommended that the 1982 and 1983 issues of the African Statistical Yearbook should be combined and that the volumes concerning North and West Africa on the one hand, and Central, East and Southern States on the other, should be considered as separate entities. Starting from the 1990 issue, each volume should be produced on alternate years in order to improve the quality and timeliness of this publication.

186. The participants noted that the Statistical Information Bulletin for Africa has been discontinued as of the 1988-1989 work programme. The meeting however urged the secretariat to circulate reports of any future studies undertaken to member States in a timely manner. The meeting recommended that a working group on statistical priorities and data requirements for monitoring the implementation of ASP-SAP, within the context of the Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s, should be included in the 1990-1991 work programme. The meeting recommended the organization in 1991 of a workshop on household survey in the field of literacy, nutrition, health, income and expenditures to be financed from extrabudgetary resources. It should review technical studies which have been prepared on the above areas by the Central Coordinating Unit of MFSCP within the United Nations Statistical Office.

187. Great concern was expressed about the lack of basic economic statistics for the compilation of national accounts. It was hoped that the revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA) would take African conditions into account, and that the computerization of national accounts would make progress on the continent.

188. The observer for ILO pointed out that paragraph 38 of document E/ECA/PSD.6/15 does not indicate the number of missions undertaken by the ILO/ECA Regional Adviser in Household Surveys, of which 27 had been funded by ILO. The secretariat recognized that these figures should have been mentioned.

189. The observer for FAO observed that the work programme in the field of agricultural statistics implemented by the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division should have also been included in the document under consideration.

190. Replying to the observer for the World Bank, the representative of the secretariat confirmed that ECA also attaches great importance to the co-ordination of activities between the various international agencies. The secretariat welcomed the possibility of a data processing adviser being posted to Addis Ababa under the SDA project.

191. A number of participants pointed out that important Conference background documents were received only on their arrival in Addis Ababa and recommended that these should be sent to member States in advance to enable adequate preparations to be carried out at the national level. They also urged member States to co-operate fully with the secretariat by sending regularly copies of their published statistical data to ECA.

192. To conclude the discussions under this agenda item, the meeting strongly recommended that adequate resources should be provided to the ECA Statistics Division under the regular budget, particularly as regards micro-computing facilities and travel funds, in order to strengthen the services offered to member States, thus contributing to statistical development in the region.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 10)

193. The Committee adopted its report.

DEMOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

Election of officers (agenda item 8)

194. The observer of Zaire, chairman of the fifth session of the Demography Committee, Nigeria, vice-chairman, presided over the election of the following officers:

Chairperson:	Mr. J.B. Nsea, Malawi
First Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Adegoke Kofi, Togo
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Thomas Kongap, Cameroon
Rapporteur:	Mr. Abdellatif Chaouai Morocco.

An evaluation of the age-sex data of recent African population censuses (agenda item 7)

195. A representative of the secretariat, in introducing this agenda item, noted that the evidence from the selected member States with, in practice, single- and five-year age distributions points to extensive digit preference/avoidance. With reference to the overall evaluation of the age-sex data, he observed that the age-sex distributions were highly inaccurate, with the situation more serious in the West and East African subregions compared with the North, Central and Southern African subregions. He however pointed out that some improvements have taken place in the reporting and recording of the age data in successive censuses of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

196. In order to improve the reporting and recording of the age data of future population censuses in African countries, he tabled three main recommendations: (a) careful selection and training of the field staff, especially enumerators; (b)

judicious choice of the most suitable question on age; and (c) minimization of coverage errors and other source age errors.

197. the discussions that followed, the role of the calendar of local and national events in improving the age data was underlined. It was however pointed out that for such calendars to be effective, guidelines, enough time and care should be invested in their compilation and use, and that they should include not only national but also local events. The problem of allocation of adequate time in the field for the administration of questionnaire was also noted.

198. Improvements in vital statistics/civil registration systems were also identified by participants as one of the useful strategies for the enhancement of the age-sex data in African censuses. Thus member States were urged to continue to improve their existing civil registration systems for this and other reasons. Other recommendations for the improvement of the age data, namely the careful selection and training of the field staff and the institution of strict quality control procedures at various stages of the data production-collection, processing and tabulation, were endorsed by participants.

199. On methods for assessing age-sex errors in African censuses, the use of carefully conducted post-enumeration surveys (PES), among other methods, was recommended. It was noted that the results from such surveys offered the opportunity for the matching of age-sex records and estimation of the errors by well-known statistical techniques as well as the production of tables on the completeness of coverage are useful for the understanding the causes of the errors.

Evaluation of experiences of ECA member States in the implementation of the recommendations of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action (agenda item 22)

200. A representative of the secretariat presented document E/ECA/PSD.6/21 entitled "Evaluation of experiences of ECA member States in the implementation of the recommendations of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action". A brief review was made of the KPA and the main issues in the two earlier monitoring reports.

201. He explained that the objectives of this third attempt at monitoring the implementation of the KPA were to examine the content of the national population programmes in the five member States to which a mission was undertaken, namely Cameroon, Ghana, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia; and, on these bases, to propose some modus operandi for guiding other member States that are yet to initiate their population policy development process.

202. As a prelude to presenting the national programmes, the status of population policy development in the region as at the time of the United Nations sixth Population Inquiry (1987) and prospects for the 1990s was summarized, using the detailed information reported in the tenth issue of the African Population Studies series. He noted that both in the cases of population growth rates and fertility levels, available evidence points to an increase in member States' perceptions relative to the situation in the 1970s; there exists a gap, however, between these perceptions and actual actions taken in terms of formulating and implementing policies to contain both problems. With spatial population distribution, the level of perceptions is even higher, although the actual policy development is equally low. International migration

is still not an important component of population growth although the brain drain is quite significant in most countries.

203. Regarding the national population programmes, the representative of the secretariat noted that there was a mix of developments in the member States. While some countries have moved from pro-natalist to anti-natalist positions and are consolidating their population policy formulation strategies, others are reactivating the implementation of their existing strategies to ensure a realization of their objectives. Still others, with more recently established explicit policies, are working out modalities of implementing the strategies of such policies.

204. He then stressed that a member State's national programme should derive from the "guidelines" which it developed earlier for integrating population factors in development planning simultaneous with component sectors, each consisting of project/activities grouped around a related aspect of the population policy objectives, targets and strategies. He observed that the decade of the 1980s can be regarded as one during which the ~~going~~ operandi for population policy formulation was fairly under control within most member States of the region. In this regard, he further observed that four basic documents are useful in providing a guide to member States, namely (a) the two volumes of the report of the Regional Training Workshop on demographic estimates and projections held at SIDS (Accra) in 1985; (b) "guidelines" for integrating population factors in development planning; (c) African Population Studies series, No. 10; and (d) the series of monitoring reports on the implementation of the KPA recommendations. Regarding implementation of population policy strategies, he noted that the establishment of a multisectoral committee as advocated in the "guidelines" was a pertinent tool. Findings of review reports on ISSPD projects are equally useful.

205. During the debate, participants expressed satisfaction with the overall quality of the document. However, they raised issues with the non-inclusion of policies on morbidity/mortality and the role of women in development, the need to de-emphasize the poor impact of the population policy in Kenya; the rationale of a population policy in the face of 'AIDS'; the ideal population size for a country; the criteria used by the secretariat in selecting the five member States included in the report; the countries that have indeed implemented the KPA recommendations; the philosophy of the integration process; and, the need to focus on population information activities in the region. Additionally, the Committee was informed about the adoption of the N'djamena Programme of Action on Population (1989) on population and development in the Sahel by the member States of CILSS.

206. The representative of the secretariat explained that the detailed coverage of policies on the indicated aspects of population growth components is contained in the bigger document (African Population Studies series, No. 10). He accepted the additional information provided on the changing situation regarding the impact of Kenyan population policy, but stressed that the factors accounting for the observed impact (1965-1984) have been highlighted in several fora; important were also the steps being taken to improve the policy impact.

207. Regarding the rationale for a population policy relative to the 'AIDS' phenomenon, he admitted that 'AIDS', in a way, imposes some control on a country's

population growth. But a policy is not synonymous with population control. Rather, since it comprises measures and programmes designed to contribute to the achievement of a country's economic, social, demographic, political and other collective goals, a population policy should form an integral part of the country's overall development strategy. On the issue of an ideal population size, its growth rate relative to that of the economy is often a factor of greater concern. This concern underlines the ongoing debate as to whether or not rapid population growth rate is the real constraint to socio-economic development; and the contemporary consensus for implementation of population and development programmes.

208. Regarding the basis for selecting the five member States covered in the present monitoring report, he explained that ECA had contacted several member States at varying stages of population policy development. Given resource constraints, a mission was undertaken to the first five responding. On the States that have implemented the KPA recommendations, he observed that the member States could only be categorized as being at different stages of the integration continuum.

209. Finally, he provided a working definition of 'integration' from the "guidelines" and then outlined the steps indicated in the latter for operationalizing the integration process at the macro and sectoral levels.

The relative roles of maternal and child health care and family planning programmes, proximate determinants and socio-economic correlates in influencing fertility (agenda item 23)

210. In presenting document E/ECA/PSD.6/22, a representative of the secretariat presented various factors which influence fertility directly like proximate determinants or indirectly like socio-economic variables which influence the proximate determinants. The influence on fertility can be either to increase or decrease fertility. Therefore it was difficult to disentangle the impact of each of the factors. However, some empirical evidence was given wherever possible. For instance, improvements in health and implementation of efficient family planning programmes have had a more important role in some countries while in others, socio-economic development is more critical in reducing fertility.

211. He stressed the fact that governments wanting to moderate fertility should include in their action programmes, which aim at improving maternal and child health care and family planning, programmes with particular emphasis on such aspects as birth spacing, prolonged breast feeding, fertility regulation, reduction of infant and child mortality, motivation of the people through information, education and communication programmes aiming at changing attitudes for small families. Delayed marriages for women and improvement in their education and status are seen as equally crucial. He indicated that a combination of improvements in the general socio-economic conditions with other actions referred to above would bring about greater impact in reducing fertility. The need for member States to actively implement the policies recommended by the KPA was stressed once again.

212. In the discussions that followed, a number of participants appreciated the quality of the document. Some of the issues or questions raised by participants included information and motivation activities that had contributed to successful

programmes that led to fertility decline in India, specifically with reference to Kerala State; data on proportions of single, widowed and divorced women who could affect the high proportions of contraceptive use in Mauritius; whether the relationship between income and fertility was always linear; whether a strategy on education and information was necessary; need for research studies by the secretariat on both demand and supply aspects of fertility; and the impact of migration on fertility.

213. Regarding the success story of Kerala State, in India, the representative of the secretariat emphasized that significant improvements in health, improvements and expansion in education for the majority of the population which led to high proportions of literate women, and availability of family planning programmes were the major factors that led to lower fertility though Kerala State is one of India's poor States. With reference to the question on Mauritius, he noted that the document did not contain figures on proportion of single, widowed and divorced women who were using contraception, but such data would be made available. The secretariat felt that the high contraceptive use in Mauritius was not necessarily due to single, widowed and divorced women. He explained that the relationship between income per capita and fertility level was not always linear noting that below the threshold of the income level, there was no relation while income per capita beyond the threshold is associated with rapid declining fertility and as further increase in income, fertility may decline at a diminishing rate and reach a point where any further increase in income may not have any influence on fertility.

214. He agreed on the need for an information education communication (IEC) strategy to ensure that the population was well informed about the relationship between population and development and the benefit of having the number of children that could be properly taken care of in terms of basic needs like education, for example. However, each country would be responsible for the development of its own strategy based on specific socio-cultural and environmental conditions. The secretariat took note of research studies that look at both the demand and supply factors affecting fertility and pointed out that a study had been completed in 1988 that dealt with the demand aspect. That study was entitled 'Social cultural and legislative factors affecting family formation and fertility in selected countries" [ECA/SDD/TP/88/2(2.2)]. With reference to migration as one of the socio-economic variables affecting fertility, he pointed out that in some countries the absence of male population for prolonged periods limits sexual intercourse and may thus lower fertility. However, some views were raised that migration of males may contribute to women using contraception during the absence of the husbands and hence affect fertility all the same. It was noted in the discussions that where both husband and wife migrate, they may not want to have as many children as in the original place of residence. In such cases, migration may contribute to reduce fertility.

Report on RIPS, IFORD and CENED (agenda item 14)

215. The Director of IFORD, referring to document E/ECA/PSD.6/27, presented the main activities of the Institute during the biennium 1988-1989. Thirty-one students out of 34 were graduated after two years of training and 32 students have registered in October 1989. He further reported that most innovations that took place in the

curriculum following the recommendations of the Governing Council included individual dissertations, more use of computers by the students and the teaching of new subjects.

216. Other training and research activities of the Institute were presented. The Institute organized four training workshops on various topics like mother and child health, training on research project design in social sciences, statistical analysis of fertility, etc. Furthermore, intensive research had led to numerous publications particularly in a new series called "Medium Size Cities".

217. Regarding the future of IFORD, the Director recalled the main recommendations of the re-structuring mission, the report of which was sent to all member States. He invited participants to use their good offices in order to stimulate the reaction of their respective governments on the recommendations of the mission and on the re-structuring plan.

218. He informed the Committee that improvement of the financial situation had improved. However, while thanking the contributing member States he made an appeal for all to contribute to the running of the Institute.

219. For his part, the Director of RIPS presented a progress report on the Institute focusing on the following areas of activities undertaken during the biennium 1988-1989: (a) formal training, (b) research, (c) dissemination of information and research funding, and (d) advisory services. On formal training emphasis was placed on the large number of fellows (118) who participated in the M.A. (Population Studies) degree programme during the reporting period. Attention was drawn to the wide geographical spread of the participants and their level of success attained in the course.

220. It was further noted that significant strides had also been made in training at the M. Phil. and Ph.D levels. During the course of 1988 and 1989, 10 M. Phil. theses by fellows of the Institute were examined by the Board of Graduate Studies of the University of Ghana. Of these, eight were unconditionally passed, while the remaining two were "passed subject to corrections". The three candidates who were registered for the Ph.D degree in 1986 had now completed their theses for assessment. Two new candidates had also been enrolled and had commenced work on their theses.

221. Non-formal training in the form of ad hoc training workshops and seminars were organized for participants from member States, including past students of the Institute. The training activities comprised three workshops/seminars on data quality and evaluation and a colloquium on the impact of family planning programmes in sub-Saharan Africa.

222. Students of the Institute undertook varied research activities for their dissertation and theses work. They also undertook primary research on internal migration in Abetifi in 1987 and fertility in Ngemas in 1988. Data from both surveys had been published and also used by some students for writing their long essays. Note was taken of a number of continuing analytical and methodological research activities by the academic staff of the Institute. A major primary field research completed by staff members was the Fertility Survey of Greater Accra. Work on processing and analyzing the survey data had already started towards the eventual organisation of a feed-back seminar later in 1990.

223. Arising from the research and management activities were a number of publications by staff and students. The list included RIPS Newsletter (4 issues); Occasional Paper, No.4; Bibliography Series (Nos. 1 and 2); RIPS Working Paper (Nos.4 and 5); RIPS Occasional Publication (No.1); and Survey Series (Nos. 1 and 2).

224. Participants were informed that the Institute was recently assessed by a UNFPA-appointed independent evaluation mission from 18 to 26 October 1989 for an assessment of RIPS performance and from 21 to 27 November 1989 for evaluation of the Institute's computer facilities. Both reports are expected. The procedures for evaluation of the Institute by graduating students was also outlined.

225. The observer for CERPOD reviewed the activities of the Centre during the period considered. These activities which are implemented in the framework of a five-year plan, include research, ongoing training, academic training, seminars and workshops, scientific information and technical assistance.

226. For the future CERPOD intends to continue most of its activities and elaborate a five-year plan, 1993-1997.

227. During the debate, participants asked questions about the collaboration between African training institutions, the differences in the curriculum between IFORD and RIPS, on the follow-up of the graduates, the financial contribution expected from member States, the harmonization issues and a request for establishing a training centre for African Portuguese-speaking countries.

228. The directors responded to the queries of the participants.

229. The Director of IFORD took note of the suggestion made regarding collaboration with the Cairo Demographic Centre and indicated that both institutions were already exchanging publications. He explained the differences in the curricula by the tradition established between francophone and anglophone systems. He indicated that other training activities were either carried out by the institute or in collaboration with other institutions. Furthermore, former graduates were followed up upon regularly and an update file exists at the Institute.

230. The observer for CERPOD indicated that the five-year programme is adopted by the member States, that the projects are implemented in co-operation with them. Seventy-five per cent of research projects are implemented by national institutions or fellows. Research dissemination seminars are also organized in the member States.

231. In the discussion on RIPS, the Director indicated that the M.A. 12-month programme is designed for government employees who are expected to resume their activities after training. Fellows with outstanding performance in this programme can register for the M. Phil. 18-month programme upon agreement of their respective governments. Furthermore, on recommendations of the University of Ghana and RIPS some fellows who completed M. Phil. could enrol for the Ph.D three-year programme. On other activities of the Institute, the Director explained that research programmes are undertaken by the staff, either individually or in collaboration with students supervised by them. Most of the studies are published and made available to other

institutions. Some of them are presented at workshops or seminars attended also by past RIPS students.

232. In responding to queries regarding evaluation and monitoring activities of RIPS, the Director observed that fellows completing their studies also fill evaluation reports, which are reviewed by the Governing Council. Furthermore, UNFPA, as the main funding agency, in collaboration with ECA evaluates regularly the Institute. The report of such exercise is also submitted to the Council. He welcomed the suggestion for a system of evaluating past students in their post-training activities. However, the Institute maintains mailing addresses for all formers students of RIPS.

233. The Chief of the ECA Population Division thanked the participants for congratulating the Directors of the Institutes. He invited them to ensure that contributions to the Institutes are reflected in the budgets of their respective countries. On the issue of harmonization he recalled the decision by the ECA Conference of Ministers that each Institute remains separate. Nonetheless, RIPS and IFORD collaborate closely through seminars, exchange of publications and high-level meetings of Directors of both Institutes. Similar collaboration exists between RIPS and the Cairo Demographic Centre.

234. On the creation of a centre for Portuguese-speaking countries, he indicated that ECA had in the past mandated the Population Division to contemplate this possibility. But in view of some difficulties it was at that time not possible to open such centre. However, in view of progress achieved by the Portuguese-speaking countries since independence and in view of the emerging need, the possibility could be envisaged. The meeting took note of past efforts by ECA. The Director of RIPS indicated that his Institute was available to collaborate in the teaching of fellows from these countries, save the language difficulties.

Report on population activities (1988-1989), review of approved programme of work (1990-1991) and consideration of draft work programme (1992-1993) and medium-term plan (1992-1997) (agenda item 25).

235. In presenting documents E/ECA/PSD.6/24 and E/ECA/PSD.6/24/Add.1, a representative of the secretariat described ECA population activities for the biennia 1988-1989 and 1990-1991 and the proposed work programme (1992-1993), as well as the draft medium-term plan (1992-1997).

236. During the period 1988-1989 the population programme continued to comprise three subprogrammes. In addition, the Population Division executed the following main UNFPA-funded projects: Regional demographic advisory services, one component of CERPOD, IFORD, POPIN-AFRICA and RIPS.

237. The 1990-1991 approved work programme puts emphasis on studies related to mortality, infant and childhood mortality, migration and urbanization, refugee problems, the impact of family planning and its evaluation, population policies and methodology of integration of demographic variables in the planning process.

238. The 1992-1997 medium-term plan is being submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations. The ECA population programme has become one subprogramme by

itself. The strategy and the objectives of the plan take into account the changing needs of the member States.

239. The observer for CEPED presented the five main activities of the Centre: strengthening and developing methodology of data collection and analysis, a vital registration programme, studies on population dynamics, studies on the interrelationship between population and development (health, family...), training and research fellow visits, documentation. He then gave a brief account of the CEPED outputs.

240. During the debate, participants congratulated the Population Division for the quality of the services rendered to member States and for its efficiency. Suggestions were also made with a view to enriching the work programme, like conducting studies on infant and maternal mortality, status and conditions of women and their effects on economic and social development, effect of female migration on fertility, interrelationship between population growth and environment in Africa, etc.

241. The representative of the secretariat indicated that note was duly taken of the pertinent suggestions and the work programme would be revised in the light of the new needs of member States, given the availability of resources. He recalled that mortality was already a priority for the Population Division, but limited resources made it difficult to increase activities in the field. He also recalled the contribution of ECA in the methodology of mortality surveys and encouraged countries to make more use of it. He recognized the need for complementary studies on the topics suggested.

242. Before adjourning the session on agenda item 25, the Chairman invited the secretariat, at the request of participants, to present the technical background paper E/ECA/PSD.6/TP/8 which highlights the methodological and technological innovations in the areas of demographic data collection, processing and analysis.

243. In presenting the paper, the representative of the secretariat brought to the attention of the meeting the vast and varied quantity of data collected in the censuses in Africa and the need for fuller exploitation of information available. It was pointed out that even though several methods are available for the evaluation and analysis of the demographic data, there was need for adaptation and modification of the available techniques to respond to the data situation in the continent. Several of these were presented in a workbook published by ECA/RIPS based on a training workshop held at RIPS for English-speaking countries. A similar workshop has also been held for French-speaking countries and the workbook based on this is in preparation. It was mentioned that in order to operationalize some of the new methods, appropriate software is being developed and will be utilized in a workshop scheduled to be held at RIPS in July/August 1990.

244. During discussions the question of standardization of nomenclature, the possibility of use of pre-coded questionnaires and of audio-visual aids and other electronic media in data collection was raised. The participants also felt that there was need for ECA to organize more workshops to effectively disseminate these new methodologies and techniques.

245. In reply, the representative of the secretariat said that even though it was useful to have standardized definitions of terms and terminologies, it should not affect data quality because of the known variations between countries and even within large countries in such questions as marital status, household, etc. He admitted that pre-coded questionnaires certainly would reduce data collection time, but should be planned properly and used carefully to avoid loss of information as has been noted in some countries which tried such dodges. He welcomed the suggestion to organize more workshops on various aspects of data collection and analysis and informed the meeting that a subregional training workshop on use of micro-computers in data evaluation and analysis is planned in 1990 for English-speaking countries to be followed by one in 1991 for French-speaking countries. It was suggested that perhaps in 1992 there should be a regional training workshop embracing all countries in the continent to consider the fuller exploitation and interpretation of the data expected to be available as the 1990 round of censuses are completed around 1995. The manuals and software being produced for the workshops in 1990 and 1991 will be continuously updated to reflect the changing needs and data situation in the continent.

246. The representative of the secretariat read a message from the Director of the United Nations Population Division, who is retiring. The meeting invited the secretariat to express to him its appreciation for his active participation in past sessions and for his concerns and interest in population issues related to Africa.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 26)

247. The Committee adopted its report as well as the following:

Conclusions and recommendations

248. In summary, the Demography Committee deliberated on five substantive agenda items. On agenda item 21, it noted that despite time-specific improvements, the observed age-sex data were still inaccurate particularly in countries of the West and Eastern African subregions. Suggestions were then made to ensure better age-sex data quality; emphasis was also placed on the need to establish and/or improve upon existing vital registration systems.

249. On agenda item 22, the national population programmes of selected member States were reviewed using as an analytical framework the "guidelines" developed by the secretariat for integrating population factors in development planning. The review provided some basis for guiding future 'integration' by member States.

250. On agenda item 23, the importance of simultaneous implementation of population and socio-economic development programmes was stressed as a possible venue for effecting reductions in the levels of fertility and in the rapid population growth rates of member States.

251. On agenda item 24, progress reports on RIPS, IFORD, and CERPOD were presented alongside related operational constraints. The need to recognize the useful role of these Institutes was stressed together with the related issues of providing continued funding for their effective operations.

252. On agenda item 25, the work programmes of the secretariat were reported and appraised for the periods 1988-1989, 1990 -1991 and 1992-1993.

253. The Committee then noted with satisfaction that, on an increasing scale, African countries were recognizing the importance of incorporating population factors in their national development plans, particularly following the adoption of the KAP. In this context, the Committee made the following recommendations:

> African countries should continue their commitment to implement the recommendations contained in the ERA. In particular, those countries which have not yet formulated relevant policies to explain their population problems, as identified, were urged to do so. Accordingly, the Committee urged:

(a) Countries to make greater use of the "guidelines" for operationalizing such integration;

(b) Countries to ensure careful selection and training of their field survey staff, as well as more judicious choice of questions for age and minimization of coverage errors; there was also the need to establish and/or improve vital registration systems;

(c) Countries to draw from the "existing and known" success stories while formulating implementation strategies for their population policies;

(d) The secretariat to place greater emphasis on policy-oriented studies related to the causal interrelationships between child/maternal mortality and fertility levels as well as the need to address such causes;

(e) The secretariat, in liaison with the regional training institutes and other interested agencies, to organize a regional seminar on population growth dynamics;

(f) The secretariat to organize workshops on methodologies and techniques in population data collection, analysis and utilisation of findings in socio-economic development;

(g) The secretariat, in consultation with the Portuguese-speaking countries, to establish a middle-level training centre in demography;

(h) The secretariat, through its POPIN-AFRICA activities, to promote the development of IEC programmes simultaneously with identification of permanent structures/facilities for creating population information within the framework of the integration process;

(i) UNFPA to increase its funding of the regional advisory services of the ECA Population Division; and

(j) The ECA Executive Secretary to take up the matter of financing the regional training institutes with African Heads of State and Government.

INFORMATION SCIENCE COMMITTEE

Election of officers (agenda item 27)

254. The following officers were elected:

Chairperson:	Mr. Philip T. Wachiaya, Kenya
First vice-chairperson:	Mr. R. A. Mahiza, Tanzania
Second vice-chairperson:	Mr. Gorfu Asefa Damte, Ethiopia
Rapporteur:	Mr. Tayemu Masikini, Malawi

Progress report on establishment of PADIS network of national, subregional and institutional participating centres (agenda item 28)

255. A representative of the secretariat presented document E/ECA/PSD.6/25 bearing the same title as the agenda item. It was reported that since the writing of the document, the number of national participating centres (NPCs) had increased by another four, bringing the actual number of NPCs to 32. A list of the four additional centres was distributed. A brief introduction to the PADIS network was given, outlining the different elements of the network including the NPCs, subregional centres (SCs), and subregional and regional institutional participating centres (IPCs).

256. The Committee was informed that among the benefits network members received were: advisory services, internships at PADIS, and training of staff in PADIS methodologies, bibliographic data base management and management of documentation and information centres. NPCs also received information in printed form as well as data from the PADIS information system downloaded on diskettes and tapes. The responsibilities of network members were to exchange information with the network and to utilize the PADIS norms and standards for documentation and information. It was also expected that a NPC should have sufficient manpower to act as a national focal point in the network, that the centre should be operational, that the physical infrastructure should be in place and that information should be processed actively. The issue of compatibility of equipment was also discussed.

257. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania announced that his country would shortly nominate a NPC to join the PADIS network. Questions were raised about the possibility of PADIS assistance in equipment and capital development. While this was not possible, PADIS could help in formulating project documents and identify prospective donors from whom such assistance might be obtained.

258. Several participants raised the issue of the need to accelerate the pace of development of both national and subregional centres. The Executive Secretary was asked to use his good offices to encourage member States to move more rapidly in this area. Diplomatic channels in Addis Ababa should be used, it was noted, to communicate information about the network.

Report on PADIS activities (1988-1989), review of approved work programme (1990-1991), consideration of draft work programme (1992-1993), and medium-term plan 1992-1997 (agenda item 29)

259. A representative of the secretariat presented document E/ECA/PSD.6/26 bearing the title of the agenda item which detailed PADIS activities during the biennium 1988-1989 including the delivery of training, advisory services and other forms of technical co-operation for ECA member States; data base development, networking, user services, servicing of legislative and other meetings including expert groups, undertaking of studies and issuance of publications. It was noted that the 1990-1991 work programme would continue to be financed from extrabudgetary sources. However, there were presently no provisions for continuation of posts beyond 1990. The draft programme of work for 1992-1993 which derived from the medium-term plan for 1992-1997 was also discussed.

260. In discussion of this item, several participants noted positively the increase in the number of NPC from 11 to 32 during the period under review and the substantial services rendered to member States despite the limited resources at PADIS' disposal. PADIS, however, was urged to make NPCs aware of their need to supply information to the regional co-operative system, especially in cases where the focal points were not themselves information producers. Questions were raised about the filling of the post of director of PADIS. The meeting was informed that steps were being taken by the ECA Administration to have this post filled as soon as possible.

261. Participants wanted to know why it had taken so long for PADIS to receive financing from the regular budget of the United Nations. The representative of the secretariat detailed the submissions that had been made by ECA to the General Assembly requesting some professional posts to be financed by the regular budget. While they were unsuccessful for the present biennium, assurances had been given that in the event that continuing extrabudgetary resources were not secured, core posts could be financed from contingency funds.

262. The problem of UNDP financing of PADIS in 1991 and during its fifth programming cycle (1992-1997) was also raised. Participants felt that, in view of PADIS' efforts in Africa to create an information system that was assisting African countries in their development processes, UNDP and other donors should consider favourably continued support to PADIS. The Committee decided to draw up a recommendation on this concern.

263. Other suggestions were also made to enhance the impact of PADIS' activities in African member States, such as frequent missions to the member countries. The importance of this suggestion was noted, although its realization was limited by resource constraints. In this situation, PADIS was urged to use all available means of communication to deliver its message to member States. Participants noted their responsibility to raise the awareness of their respective countries on the importance of the information component of development. PADIS' efforts were applauded in the promotion of information and information technology policies. It was noted that a PADIS regional seminar had led to the adoption of an information policy in one country of the region.

264. Questions were also raised about the PADIS-STAT data base, and details were given on the efforts to effect its portability to microcomputers.

The use of microcomputers in documentation and information centres in Africa [agenda item 29 (a)]

265. The Committee amended its agenda to consider as (a) under this agenda item document E/ECA/PSD.6/TP/4 "The use of microcomputers in documentation and information centres in Africa", presented by the secretariat. The document was based on a questionnaire survey of documentation and information centres in Africa which updated a survey undertaken in 1988 which had been presented to the fifth session of the Joint Conference. In discussion of this sub-item, participants noted that the document underlined the continuing need of member States for services PADIS could provide. PADIS, it was noted, could help to alleviate the literature famine in Africa through provision of its user services to participating centres and their nodes. The need for more training in microcomputer use was emphasized, provided that it was compatible with locally available equipment. Participants stressed the burden on themselves as professionals to ensure that microcomputers increased productivity in their countries.

266. The problem of computer viruses was discussed, a phenomenon to which Africa was particularly vulnerable in light of its resource shortages. The representative of the secretariat said that each would try to communicate early warnings of such viruses to its network. Information was also provided on the dissemination of CD-ROM technology in the region. In view of the generally critical shortage of manpower in informatics and information science, participants stressed the need to profit from those countries in the region which were better provided in this regard. In the development of information policy, it was noted that all components of the information industry, including the mass media, had to be included in order for development information to reach the grass-roots.

Any other business [agenda item 29 (b)]

267. Information was requested on progress made in establishing a Master of Information Science programme at Addis Ababa University. Participants asked that they be kept abreast of developments on this programme through the PADIS newsletter and information sent to member States. PADIS was urged to establish a programme of familiarization tours for network members to visit its facilities. In addition to reports on the PADIS network, on technical assistance and on the utilization of information technology in the Africa region, the Committee requested an agenda item at its 1992 meeting on resources of national information centres/services in Africa.

Adoption of report (agenda item 30)

268. After discussion and approval of amendments, the Committee adopted its report and a recommendation on improving information flows in the African region.

RESUME PLENARY

Any other business (agenda item 21)

269. The President of the African Statistical Association (AFSA) informed the meeting about the background and activities of the Association, formed in 1984 under the auspices of the Joint Conference and the ECA Conference of Ministers. He noted that the Association currently has a membership of 500, drawn from African statisticians and other related professionals interested in the development of statistics in the continent. He told the meeting that AFSA also provides a link between national statistical associations. The Association had published three newsletters and that a scientific journal was about to be established. The Association's first Scientific Conference, held in Abuja, Nigeria, in 1985, was attended by statisticians from the entire continent. The second such conference is planned to be held in Morocco in either 1991 or 1992.

270. The meeting appreciated the initiative by the secretariat to involve African economists in the sixth session of the Conference to interact with planners and other disciplines. An appeal was made to continue the involvement of these African intellectuals in future meetings of the Joint Conference.

Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Joint Conference (agenda item 22)

271. A representative of the secretariat introduced the document entitled "Suggested agenda items for PSD.7". In the discussion, the importance of including plenary items on women, refugees and food aid was stressed. Additions were also made and corrections noted to the proposed agenda for the subcommittees. As amended, the following draft provisional agenda was adopted:

PLENARY

1. Opening address.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of agenda.

4. Statistical requirements for monitoring and evaluating short-term policy reforms and long-term development programmes.

5. The use of information technology in the African region.

6. ECA technical assistance in planning, statistics, demography and information science.

7. Review of social and economic conditions in Africa, 1986-1991, with special consideration of:

   (a) The role of women in the recovery process;

(b) The status of refugees and their impact on socio-economic development;

(c) The role of food aid as a source of investment within the socio-economic plans.

8. Progress report of follow-up on AAF-SAP.

9. Report on follow-up activities on ECA macro-economic modelling of AAF-SAP.

10. Assessment of national experiences in the implementation of the recommendations of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action (KPA).

PLANNING COMMITTEE

11. Election of officers.

12. Integration of the informal sector in overall development process.

13. A study on macro-economic management and planning in Africa.

14. Report on the progress of the implementation of short-term forecasting systems in some African countries.

15. Studies on policy instruments of AAF-SAP in the determination of appropriate exchange rates in African countries.

16. Report of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

17. Report on ECA planning activities (1990-1991), review of approved work programme (1992-1993) and consideration of draft work programme (1994-1995).

18. Adoption of the report.

STATISTICS COMMITTEE

19. Election of officers.

20. The plan of action for statistical development in African countries in the 1990s: progress and problems in its implementation.

21. Implementation of International Trade Commodity Classifications (ITCC) in African countries.

22. Priorities for energy statistics in Africa (with special emphasis on new and renewable sources of energy statistics).

23. Progress on the revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA).

24. Integration of economic, social and environmental statistics: sources and methods.

25. Report on programme implementation by the Statistics Division (1990-1991), review of approved work programme (1992-1993) and consideration of draft work programme (1994-1995).

26. Adoption of the report.

DEMOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

27. Election of officers.

28. A study of interrelationships between infant/childhood mortality and fertility levels: their policy implications for ECA member States.

29. A study on assessment of urban immigration policies in selected ECA member States.

30. Report on ECA regional training and research institutes.

31. Identification of obstacles, problems and suggested solutions for self-reliant development and sustainability of national population information facilities in ECA member States.

32. Updating of knowledge of African population size and dynamics - highlights from the 1980 and 1990 rounds of Censuses in ECA member States.

33. Report on programme implementation by the Population Division (1990-1991), review of approved work programme (1992-1993) and consideration of draft work programme (1994-1995).

34. Adoption of the report.

INFORMATION SCIENCE COMMITTEE

35. Election of officers.

36. Report on progress in the establishment of the PADIS network.

37. Report on Programme Implementation by PADIS (1990-1991), review of approved work programme (1992-1993) and consideration of draft work programme (1994-1995).

38. Resources of national information centres/services in Africa.

39. Adoption of the report.

40. Other business.

41. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Joint Conference.

42. Review of Committee deliberations and summary of main conclusions.

43. Report of the Symposium of African Economists on AAF-SAP.

44. Adoption of the report of the Joint Conference to the ECA Conference of Ministers.

Review of Committee deliberations and summary of main conclusions (agenda item 33)

272. Under this agenda item, the four Committees briefly reported on the content and outcome of their deliberations. A number of resolutions and the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s were also adopted for consideration by the ECA Conference of Ministers. These are annexed to the present report.

Report of the symposium of African economists on AAF-SAP (agenda item 34)

273. This report was presented under agenda item 33.

Adoption of the report of the Joint Conference to the ECA Conference of Ministers (agenda item 35)

274. The Joint Conference adopted its draft report and resolutions for submission to next ECA Conference of Ministers. Before adjourning, it adopted a motion of thanks to the Government of Ethiopia for the facilities provided to the participants and congratulated the organizers of the Conference.

ANNEX I

Draft resolution on

Improving information flows in the African region

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 498 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 on the Pan African Documentation and Information System in Africa,

Recalling also its resolution 600 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 on information systems development in Africa,

Bearing in mind its resolution 658 (XXIV) of 7 April 1989; on strengthening information systems in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction PADIS's performance in the delivery of technical assistance to member States in the period since the last session of the joint conference,

Appreciative of PADIS's efforts in creating an information system to assist African member States in their development processes,

Noting with concern the precarious situation of the bulk of PADIS's funding for technical assistance which is presently scheduled to end on 31 December 1990,

Recognizing the need for adequate training in the region in current information technology,

Concerned by the small number of up-to-date office automation equipment at ECA to be used to service African member States,

1. Commends member States which have recently nominated or which are in the process of designating national participating centres in the PADIS network;

2. Reminds participating centres of their responsibilities to the network, including the contribution of information;

3. Urges governments which are hosting subregional centres to accelerate the process of their establishment;

4. Strongly urges UNDP to ensure the continuation of PADIS technical assistance activities on behalf of member States by supplementing its allocation to project RAF/86/053 to permit the continuation of professional and administrative staff through the Fifth Cycle;

5. Urges African member States to consider PADIS in their pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;

6. Appeals to bilateral and other multilateral donors to consider support to PADIS;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to explore further ways and means of securing regular budget posts for PADIS;

8. Urges United Nations Headquarters to provide the ECA secretariat with the necessary office automation equipment for its optimal functioning and servicing of its member States.

ANNEX II

Draft resolution on the future of IDEP

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 669 (XXIV) on the future funding of IDEP,

Recalling the Special Memorandum of the Governing Council of IDEP,

Considering the record of IDEP in the training of African planners and development specialists,

Considering the continuing and growing need of African governments for the services of IDEP in the fields of training, research and advisory services,

Considering that IDEP is the only regional institute able to provide training and research services to all the member States of the Commission, considering the decision taken by UNDP to withdraw its support to the core activities of IDEP by the end of 1990,

Noting with great distress that the continuous and large shortfall in member States' contributions to IDEP will inevitably force its closure in February of this year if no remedial action is taken;

1. Urgently appeals to the member States of ECA to:

(a) Immediately pay to IDEP their contribution for 1990 and their arrears for 1989;

(b) Pay back to IDEP all their remaining arrears according to a schedule to be arranged with the management of IDEP;

(c) Pay their regular annual contribution to IDEP in a timely manner under arrangements to be determined with the management of IDEP;

2. Appeals to UNDP to help the Institute to survive its present financial crisis and in particular to:

(a) Quickly set up the evaluation mission announced in October 1989;

(b) Give its full backing to the short-term training programme and to the research and advisory activities of IDEP;

(c) Continue its support to the restructured activities of IDEP beyond 1990;

3. Appeals to the Executive Secretary of ECA to continue his current efforts to include the core activities of IDEP in the regular budget of the Commission;

4. Urges the Governing Council of IDEP to promptly undertake to streamline and rationalize the use of resources at the Institute.

ANNEX III

Draft resolution on
Future of the African demographic training institutes

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly decision 37/44 of 21 December 1982 which approved the statutes of the two African demographic training institutes: the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD),

Recalling also its resolution 486 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 which took note of the precarious financial state of the institutes due to the insufficiency and irregularity of contributions received from their member States,

Considering the intention of UNFPA to progressively reduce its financing of the institutes as approved by resolution 84/21 of the Fund's Governing Council,

Recalling further its resolution 625 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988, which urged African Governments to continue their support of the institutes and to strengthen this by paying their arrears as well as paying their future annual contributions regularly,

Fully convinced that the idea of restructuring RIPS and IFORD as required by resolution 577 (XXI) of 13 April 1986 is highly contingent on the payment of contributions by member States,

1. Calls the attention of African Governments to the fact that failure to pay contributions to the institutes might compel them to close down;

2. Urges African Governments to assume full responsibility for the future survival of the institutes;

3. Appeals to all African Governments to provide adequate financial support to the institutes for their proper functioning;

4. Expresses its deep appreciation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund for the valuable support being accorded to the institutes;

5. Expresses also its profound gratitude to host countries, African and other governments and international organizations who have been supporting the institutes administratively and financially and calls upon them to continue their support.

E/ECA/PSD.6/27
Annex IV

DRAFT IV

Draft resolution on
improving technical facilities at ECA

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing the need for providing adequate equipment and training in the region in current information technology,

Concerned about the paucity of up-to-date office automation and computing equipment at ECA,

Further concerned about the constraints this situation imposes on ECA to properly assist African member States in enhancing their planning and monitoring capacities,

Urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide the ECA secretariat with the necessary office automation and computing equipment for its optimal functioning and for adequately serving member States.

ANNEX V

Draft resolution on the Addis Ababa
Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 469 (XVIII) of 2 May 1985 entitled "African Statistical Services",

Considering the importance of the role of statistics in formulating, monitoring and evaluating ongoing programmes on economic policy reforms,

Considering further that the strategy for the provision of relevant and timely statistical information should receive serious attention,

Noting that a number of African statistical services are not yet able to supply this information in a satisfactory and timely manner because of significant interrelated constraints which had been identified during the assessment of statistical capacities of member States carried out within the framework of the project on "Data collection related to development programmes and aid-flows in Africa",

Taking note of the report of the sixth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers,

1. Adopts the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s;

2. Urges Governments of the region to use the Plan of Action as a framework for statistical development in their respective countries, to take necessary measures to strengthen their national institutional capabilities in the statistical field and to promote dialogue between producers and users;

3. Recommends that the United Nations and its specialized agencies should continue existing efforts to ensure co-ordination of technical co-operation activities in all aspects of quantitative information;

4. Appeals to intergovernmental agencies, multilateral and bilateral donor institutions to continue and further strengthen their assistance in the statistical field in the region, in the context of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take necessary action to assist governments of the region in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

ADDIS ABABA PLAN OF ACTION FOR STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA IN THE 1990S*

PREAMBLE

The ECA Conference of Ministers,

Reviewing the development of statistics in Africa over the last 30 years,

Reviewing the current statistical capacities in African countries,

Reviewing major factors governing success and failure of the performance of national statistical services,

Stressing the strategic role of quantitative analysis for improving decision-making for sustainable development,

Mindful that data demands to formulate, monitor and evaluate policy reforms and development plans are increasing,

Noting with great concern the continuing low profile accorded to national statistical services and deteriorating conditions of service,

Concerned about a lack of consideration of national plans and priorities as well as some duplication in internationally sponsored statistical development programmes,

Reaffirming the collective commitment of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers to accelerate self-reliant, social and economic development for the well-being of African peoples,

Adopts the following Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s.

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* Draft adopted by the Sixth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers and submitted for consideration and adoption to the ECA Conference of Ministers.

PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

Principles

1. Statistics is a vital tool in national development planning.

2. African statistical services need to become fully self-reliant.

3. Statistical programmes should respond to African Governments commitment to self-reliant development.

4. International co-operation and support in the field of statistics should respond to priorities and programmes of National Statistical Services (NSS).

5. Adequate and reliable statistics are a prerequisite for designing, monitoring and evaluating projects.

6. Increased communication at all times between users and producers of statistics is an important resource in itself which, once started, would generate additional resources through the attractiveness of its product.

7. Any improvement of the statistical system constitutes an integral part of economic and social development.

8. ECA should be recognized as the key regional institution responsible for the development and promotion of statistics in Africa.

Objectives

1. To achieve self-sufficiency in statistical production, including the creation of a comprehensive national statistical data base by the end of the century.

2. To improve the reliability and relevance of data produced in African countries.

3. To undertake production of data required for formulating, monitoring and evaluating programmes designed to restructure and transform African economies.

4. To improve the timeliness in the production and dissemination of statistical information.

5. To increase awareness among users of statistical information.

6. To strengthen and sustain statistical training programmes at various levels and institutions.

7. To promote contact and dialogue among African Statisticians.

8. To encourage improvement in the organizational set-up of the National Statistical Services (NSS) and assure its autonomy.

9. To improve co-ordination of all statistical development programmes at both national and international levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. TO GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES OF ECA

1. A higher priority should be accorded to statistical activities and statistics should be seen as central to the formulation of plans and strategies.

2. Adequate funding should be provided for statistical activities.

3. Assistance should be provided in the establishment of a Statistical Development Fund with contributions from the public as well as the private sector.

4. Governments should ensure that the legislation governing the statistical services in their countries assures their utmost effectiveness.

5. ECOWAS's 18 November should be adopted as African Statistics Day in order to increase public awareness for the important role which statistics play in all aspects of social and economic life.

6. African Governments are urged to continue to give support to the African Statistical Association (AFSA).

Organization of statistical services

7. The organizational structure of the National Statistical Services should be examined carefully and, where necessary, restructured in order to meet the various data needs.

8. In order to attract and retain suitable manpower Governments are urged to develop attractive schemes of service for statisticians.

Work programme

9. The National Statistical Services (NSS) should prepare longer-term statistical development programmes (e.g., 5 or 10 years) in the context of national development plans. Such programmes should serve as a guide and framework for annual or biennial national statistical work programmes.

10. A budget document showing details of inputs and final outputs to be delivered by the National Statistical Services (NSS) should be prepared for each financial year.

Statistical committees

11. Countries are requested to set up national statistical councils composed of senior civil servants, representatives of universities, NGOs and the private sector. Such a council should act as an advisory board on policy matters relating to statistical matters.

12. User/producer and producer/producer committees should be reactivated in countries where they exist or should be initiated in countries where they do not exist. These committees enable exchange of views regarding development of statistics, uses of available statistics and the setting up of priorities for the country's statistical activities.

Establishment of statistical priorities

13. In accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, National Statistical Services (NSS) should consider the following as priority areas in future statistical programmes: food and agriculture, industry, human resources, transport and communications, trade and finance, environment, energy, women and development, population and development and the informal sector.

Statistical training

14. National Statistical Services (NSS) and statistical training institutions at the national level should organize specialized short-term training courses in statistics.

15. National statistical offices are urged to prepare and implement statistical development programmes which would help them to fully utilize available training facilities.

16. The linkage of National Statistical Services (NSS) with statistical and other training institutions should be encouraged, where absent, and strengthened, where it exists.

17. All governments should give support to centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA).

Seminars

18. National seminars covering specific or broad areas with participation drawn from government as well as research and training institutions should be organized on a regular basis and should be included in the programme of work.

Data quality and dissemination

19. In order to improve the quality of information collected, National Statistical Services (NSS) are requested to consider setting up in their offices an organizational unit on methods and standards.

20. National Statistical Services (NSS) are urged to ascertain that data are published with minimum delay.

21. As research is a vital element in statistical development, National Statistical Services (NSS) are encouraged to include research as an integral part of their statistical activities.

B. TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

22. UNDP and other multilateral and bilateral agencies are urged to enhance the scope and implementation of the ongoing Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA) and other programmes, respectively.

23. More effective use should be made of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, of the United Nations ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the Statistical Commission as institutional arrangements to improve co-ordination among international agencies.

24. ECA should take the initiative to convene a working group meeting to further review and elaborate on the principles, objectives and recommendations of this Plan of Action and formulate detailed strategies for its implementation.